

DECEMBER

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# January 2004

FEBRUARY

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1943: Freezing rain coated western Quebec and eastern Ontario with an icy crust, up to 75 mm thick. Ice-laden hydro and telephone poles fell like dominos. Hydro companies brought repair crews in from outside the region and recruited locals with strong horses and sleighs to transport poles and equipment. Telephone service was finally restored in late winter.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Where was the deadliest blizzard in the 20th century?</p> <p>2</p> <p>1) Canadian Prairies 2) Germany 3) Iran 4) China 5) Poland</p> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>2001: A strange mix of weather forced Whistler-Blackcomb, BC, resort to close its ski area. An intense cold front sliding down the coast collided with a warm, wet air mass and triggered some mid-mountain weather instability, resulting in lightning. To be on the safe side, officials decided to evacuate the hills.</p> <p>3</p>
<p>1937: Ice in Quebec rivers and lakes remained at less than half its usual thickness for this time of year. The annual Quebec supply averages about 1,250,000 blocks, but this year ice cutter businesses feared a shortage for domestic use. Proprietors admitted that, even with colder weather setting in, it would take twice as long to obtain the year's supply.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2003: Malpeque, PEI, residents, opposed to a proposed wind power development for their community, were to meet to plot the next step in their fight for relocating the project. The project called for 40 wind turbines to be built, at a cost of \$80 to \$100 million. Strong blustery winds and accompanying snowfall forced the cancellation of the weekend meeting.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>2003: Summer in winter! Record high temperatures across the Prairies prompted golf courses to consider re-opening. The next day the temperature in Winnipeg, MB, rose to a record-breaking 8°C at the Forks. At the 20th annual Polar Bear Lunch, held on a Winnipeg sidewalk patio, the owner wore Bermuda shorts while serving wine, lobster bisque, and ice cream.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1922: During a blizzard, an avalanche near Springdale, NF, overturned passenger coaches of the Newfoundland Express. The force flung passengers out the window and crushed the dining car. Luckily, the two heavy engines and snowplow escaped the avalanche, otherwise the train would have been swept down the embankment, through the ice, and into the waters below.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>2003: In Calgary, AB, the temperature was 9.3°C, but snow arrived around 11 a.m. —a truckload of snow from Lake Louise. Mountain resorts organized the publicity stunt to prove to city skiers and snowboarders that there was still snow in "them there mountains." At Sundre, AB, the ice-carved polar bears were beginning to look a bit like anteaters as they melted.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>2002: There was absolutely no useable snow within the Winnipeg, MB, city limits, causing concern for organizers of the popular Festival du Voyageur. They needed 120 tonnes of the white stuff. In light snowfall years, they often took snow from the rivers, but this year river access was denied. Plans were made to truck snow from rural areas or to use a snow cannon.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1911: The Pincher Creek, AB, hospital treated 50 frozen fingers on 7 different people. A rumour circulated that the use of a finger bowl was responsible for freezing so many fingers. Dispelling the rumour, a nurse commented, "... drivers, especially from outside the city, had their patties nipped ..." Temperatures during the cold spell dipped to -37°C.</p> <p>10</p>
<p>Perihelion 13:00 EST</p>			<p>Full Moon ☉</p>			
<p>1847: The Earl of Elgin, the new governor-general, landed in Boston and travelled by train to near the Quebec-Vermont border, where he transferred to a sleigh. Many Vermont roads didn't have enough snow for easy sleigh driving. In Montreal, however, the snow was so deep on the road to the governor-general's country residence, his staff couldn't get near the house.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>1901: Halifax, NS, was gripped by a blizzard with snow piled 2 m high in some places. Streets were deserted, and many shopkeepers were forced to close early. It was all the Tram Company could do to keep the tracks open. In one tragic accident, a train ran over an elderly deaf lady who had not heard it through the raging blizzard.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>1914: At -32°C, this was the coldest temperature measured since they began keeping weather records at the McGill University Observatory, 38 years earlier. Horses, cutters, and rigs disappeared. First thought to be the work of gangs of crooks, it was later realized that the horses had returned home of their own accord, wanting to escape the bad weather.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>2003: It was so cold in Winnipeg, MB, with -40°C wind chills, that the minor hockey association called off the Ice Bowl, an annual outdoor tournament. The decision upset both kids and organizers. The <i>Free Press</i> wrote: "Heaven help us if Don Cherry hears through the grapevine that Winterpeggers, the hardest of all in hockey, wussed out."</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1911: During a brutal cold snap, an employee of the Edmonton Street Railway froze his ear and nose. His ear had been nipped while he was sleeping at home in bed. He had been unwise enough to sleep not only in a draft, but also in one that measured in at -46.7°C. As a result, he started wearing a cap to bed.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1985: A powerful snowstorm dumped 25 to 35 cm of snow across PEI, leaving many areas in the dark when power lines collapsed. The gusty winds drove the snow into drifts that touched eaves, buried cars, and blocked doorways. All schools and most businesses closed. Weather office staff had to walk the 6 km to work.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1958: Soldiers of Canada's oldest Cavalry Regiment went on parade in a torrential downpour at Camp Gagetown in New Brunswick before leaving for police duty in Egypt. Over two days, 118.6 mm of rain fell. Some 95 officers and men of the Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) sloshed through icy, ankle-deep water to be reviewed by New Brunswick's area commander.</p> <p>17</p>
			<p>Last Quarter ☾</p>			

2003: The temperature in Cold Lake, AB, was -10°C, not harsh enough for training astronauts to survive the stresses and strains expected on a 6-month space station mission. So the Canadian-run astronaut training program was moved from CFB Cold Lake to CFB Valcartier, PQ, where there was more snow and where the temperature was around -30°C.

18

1904: For 10 days, temperatures dipped below -40°C in Yukon; one morning it was -50°C. So intense was the cold on the Dawson to Whitehorse trail that stagecoach drivers and horses bled profusely from the nostrils. At many places along the route, thermometers cracked in the cold. One stagecoach run involved a trip of 150 km over 18 hours, in -58°C weather.

19

2003: A series of 3 avalanches near Revelstoke, BC, killed 7 skiers. Spotty snowfall and several freeze/thaw cycles resulted in unstable conditions. Some of the delicate layers in the snow pack consisted of ice caused by early season rain. When re-crystallized snow is sandwiched between layers of snow, it creates a perfect sliding surface.

20

2002: Ice-cold weather finally arrived over the Prairies this week. At Key Lake, SK, the temperature dipped to -52°C, and the wind chill in Churchill, MB, was -60°C. In Edmonton, drop-in shelter staff checked outside every 2 hours to make sure no one had fallen asleep. One homeless man said that he heads to the shelter when the temperatures drop to "the killing lows."

21

1902: Heavy snow that fell for several days derailed a train car near Welland, ON. At the farmers' market in St. Catharines, buyers complained when the snow was pulled onto the walks by the farmers' sleighs. At the curling club, a worker stepped onto the roof to shovel the huge mass of snow, but the roof caved in, dragging him inside.

22

1947: In Lake Huron, the first heavy snowfall of the year marked the beginning of some of the worst winter weather in history. Weekly snowstorms clogged roads until April. The main street of Seaforth, ON, assumed a tunnel-like appearance with drifts blocking store windows. The snow banks were so high that kids walking on top could touch the telephone lines.

23

2003: The third fierce blizzard in less than a week buffeted the Avalon Peninsula, NF, forcing flight cancellations and closing schools and businesses. To date, St. John's had received 340 cm of snow. Snow removal crews worked non-stop, but residents threw shovels at plow operators and stood in their way, hoping to prevent them from blocking their driveways with snow.

24

New Moon



Chinese New Year

1905: The fiercest nor'easter in 20 years raged for 30 hours across New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. From 18 to 45 cm of snow blocked the roads and railways, preventing milk delivery and travel. Along Water Street in Digby, the spray at high tide coated buildings and destroyed many ornamental trees with a heavy layer of ice.

25

2002: The opening of the 20th edition of the Fête des Neiges in Montreal—their winter carnival—was a slushy bust. With the temperature hitting 6°C, officials had to cancel several events, including kite flying, ice-skating, and an attempt to set a new world record—180 ice sculptures carved by only 3 competitors.

26

1934: Icebreakers laden with food and supplies for beleaguered fishing villages in North Victoria County of Cape Breton Island, NS, couldn't get through the solid ice. As a result, destitute families stole sheep from their neighbours and slaughtered dairy cows. The store shelves were empty. Many children, undernourished and scantily dressed, suffered from frostbite.

27

1901: A 5-year-old boy from Acadia Valley, NS, slid down a steep hill and broke through the ice on his father's mill pond. His drowning marked the third time a son from the same family was lost in the same pond within a few years. The victim's mother had warned him repeatedly of the fatal pond.

28

1911: On the St. Mary's River at Sault Ste. Marie, ON, 5 people were ice fishing in shanties. Without warning, a great mass of ice broke at the rapids and drove downstream with a terrific force, aided by 80-km/h winds. Around the shanties, the ice began to break, and leaping from ice cake to ice cake, the party frantically headed to shore.

29

1935: One week earlier, temperatures in Saskatchewan dipped below -40°C. Despite the extreme cold, attendance in Saskatoon schools and colleges remained high. Although a number of smaller children stayed away, attendance in the higher grades was normal. One official pointed out that many children were warmer in school than at home.

30

1920: Haligonians sat up nursing fires and monitoring water pipes in one of the coldest Januaries on record in Halifax, NS. The temperature today was -27.2°C with a cold northwest wind. Citizens who did not keep their taps running all night needed a plumber's services; those who did had no water anyway, because everyone else had been running their taps too.

31

First Quarter



JANUARY

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# February 2004

MARCH

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1960: By the end of January, Montreal, PQ, had received 150 cm of snow; 30 cm of snow lay on the ground. A man climbed onto a railing of the Jacques Cartier Bridge "just to look over." He fell 30 m into a deep snowbank and only suffered a broken finger. He was charged with disturbing the peace.

1

2003: New Brunswick was under siege from an ice storm. NB Power called it the worst storm in its history, far eclipsing the ice storm of 1998 in magnitude and cost. Hundreds went to shelters but returned home, worried about their pets, which were not allowed in shelters. Moncton was hardest hit as 30 mm of freezing rain felled trees and power lines, and flooded streets.

2

Groundhog Day

2001: The steel roof of a community arena in Springhill, NS, collapsed under a metre of snow during a minor hockey game. Of the approximately 100 people present, only the trainer was trapped inside. Homeowners nearby immediately began shovelling snow off their roofs, and the mayor ordered snow removal from all town-owned buildings.

3

1980: In sub-zero temperatures, students from the Ontario College of Art and Design picketed Environment Canada in North Toronto, in a mock protest over the lack of snow for their winter carnival. They carried signs saying that they wanted a "snow job," and the duty forecaster replied it wasn't possible to snow them to the extent they desired.

4

1972: Road crews worked around the clock trying to remove a metre of snow that had fallen between Kitimat and Terrace, BC. Reports claimed that snowflakes were the size of dinner plates. Snow slides happened constantly, and hundreds abandoned their cars on roads and highways. Adding to the chaos, people clogged the main roads, walking and thumbing lifts to town.

5

1890: Until now, Winnipeg, MB, was spared the huge dumps of snow that had blocked other nearby cities and towns in Canada and the USA. But a large snowfall, 12.7 cm, accompanied by powerful winds, produced a raging blizzard, the worst in a decade. The storm blew away signs, buffeted pedestrians, and piled drifts at every street corner.

6

Full Moon ○

1909: A party of hunters, mostly English and German nobility, left Banff, AB, to go hunting. After 2 days, all but two turned back because of intense cold. The Earl of Suffolk's brother and a friend continued for 24 hours, until they were stopped by a blizzard. Found unconscious several days later, the Earl's brother had 3 toes amputated to save his life.

7

1895: News reached Halifax, NS, today of a fierce gale 5 days ago that pounded South Ingonish on Cape Breton Island, NS. Hurricane-force winds and tides 60 cm above the highest spring tide swept away 22 houses. The heavy sea washed over the beach, smashing boats and fish houses. Telegraph wires came down, slowing news of the tragedy.

8

1934: It was so cold in southern Ontario that Lake Ontario froze over completely. Many water pipes froze in towns and cities across the province. The ice on lakes and rivers was 1 m thick in some spots. Late at night, residents heard loud cracks like cannons exploding—the noise of ice breaking, foundations cracking, and trees splitting.

9

1943: An old trapper in Yukon set out for Mayo, in -51°C weather, to buy some grub. Unfortunately, his snowshoe broke, so he stopped, banked snow to his knees, and waited more than 20 hours until help arrived. Anticipating the amputation of his hands and feet, the old-timer instructed the doctor: "Save what you can, I've got to hobble around somehow."

10

1999: Snowrollers—giant snowballs formed by wind—dotted the landscape outside St. John's, NF. Some said they looked like giant marshmallows. The cylinder-shaped mounds form when warm weather converts snow into a wet, cohesive mass, and strong, gusty winds blow the snow down-slope until the snowrollers are so large or the ground is so flat that they stop in their tracks.

11

2003: Windsor, ON, police said that cold weather had had a chilling effect on the city's crime rate, which fell 18% in January, compared to the same month last year when temperatures were nearly 7 degrees warmer. Apparently most criminals stay indoors when it is cold, and the roads are more treacherous for those who are out.

12

1892: Following an unusual outbreak of sunspots, a brilliant display of northern lights, the best in 20 years, was seen in Montreal, PQ, shortly after sunset. The magnificent display featured a bright red cone of light at its base, with slow-moving streamers of vibrant reds and greenish tints that at times extended throughout the whole northern quarter of the sky.

13

Last Quarter ●

1943: Bitterly cold temperatures prevailed in eastern Ontario. An official thermometer registered -38°C, and many householders reported temperatures of -45°C. Attendance at local factories and shops plummeted as men stayed home to thaw frozen pipes and protect their families against winter's icy grip. Woebegone milkmen suffered many a cracked bottle.

14

Valentine's Day

1898: At -30°C, a man wanting a free train ride into Whitemouth, MB, faked his death by lying beside the track in the hope his "corpse" would be picked up. Though his "corpse" was seen and reported, when a passing freight train didn't stop for him, the faker got up and tramped to Whitemouth, where he shocked residents by "returning from the dead."

15

2003: Three rivers running through Badger, NF, suddenly overflowed their banks, flooding the streets. Emergency personnel evacuated many stranded homeowners in the buckets of front-end loaders. Temperatures hovered around -20°C for several days and turned the water to ice, forming massive ice slabs that jammed and smashed through some windows and doors.

16

Family Day (Alberta)

1899: Following a week of -23°C temperatures, the Detroit River was frozen solid. Travellers between Windsor and Detroit could choose to either ride the ferry or walk across the ice. A powerful steamer, stuck in the ice, was finally freed by the combined efforts of 3 car ferries and 2 huge locomotives hauling on attached cables.

17

1965: An avalanche of snow tumbling off the Leduc Glacier entombed 40 men at the Granduc Mine near Stewart, BC. It demolished 12 buildings and huge pieces of equipment. A recent storm had dumped about 4.3 m of snow at the mine. Muffled groans of buried miners could be heard as they slowly suffocated. Many escaped unharmed, but 26 died and 20 were injured.

18

1920: A fierce gale struck the western half of PEI. One observer reported that he had never seen the barometer fall so rapidly nor register so low. Winds approached 100 km/h, and rain and -6.7°C temperatures combined to cover the ground with ice and water. In a 70-km stretch from O'Leary to Summerside, 46 barns were blown over, killing livestock.

19

1901: Several people protested against the indiscriminate use of salt and sand by the Montreal Street Railway Company. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals joined in because many horses died each year from pulling heavy sleighs on bare streets. A company spokesperson explained they would be compelled to continue using salt until a less harmful substance was discovered.

20

New Moon ●

1912: A horrendous blizzard over 2 days piled snow into monstrous drifts, tying up traffic in Toronto, ON. Streetcar motormen had to climb from their cars and dig the tightly packed snow out of the switch at every intersection. They could not see 5 m ahead, and as fast as the vestibule glass in the cars was cleaned, it was coated with snow again.

21

**2003:** A nasty winter storm dumped 15 to 30 cm of snow over a large region of southern Ontario. Snow drifts were 70 cm deep in places. Provincial police reported some 800 accidents on highways around Toronto. Hundreds of Wolfe Island residents near Kingston lost power when ice-coated hydro poles snapped in strong winds.

22

Islamic New Year

**1910:** The *Edmonton Journal* carried a story about a man from Prince Albert, SK, who walked in from the woods barefoot, bareheaded, and wearing few garments in -42°C weather. The man, who was reportedly demented, disappeared about a year ago but had been seen last summer in the northern woods and had been mistakenly shot as a bear.

23

**2003:** An unusual pattern of stormy Sundays left churchgoers in Saint John, NB, praying for calm weather. Close to half the precipitation—97 of 205 mm—since the end of December had come on Sundays. Several pastors reported attendance down by more than 50% on those stormy Sundays, creating financial hardship for their churches. *[Telegraph-Journal]*

24

#### Weather Quiz

Which location in Canada has the best chance of a groundhog not seeing his shadow, thus predicting an early end to winter?

- 1] Victoria
- 2] Wiarton
- 3] Halifax
- 4] Edmonton
- 5] Ottawa

*(Answer on inside back cover)*

Ash Wednesday

25

**2003:** A fierce storm struck the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, stranding about 300 staff and students in St. Anthony. With winds up to 90 km/h causing drifting snow and continuous whiteouts, several people had to spend a second night in schools and at the airport. At the schools, staff members didn't get much sleep, but the kids had a good time.

26

**1993:** Some Nova Scotian lobster fishers averted disaster by heaving 30 ice-caked traps overboard as their boat listed heavily and was in danger of sinking near Yarmouth, NS. Crew members blamed freezing spray for the severe list that caused the vessel to take on water. Winds were blowing from the northeast at 35 km/h when the freezing spray started.

27

First Quarter 

**1999:** This was the driest month in Calgary, AB, since August 1886, when there was no precipitation. The lack of snow in and around Calgary sparked 2 grassfires and prompted a burning ban across southern Alberta. But just an hour away, in Banff, it was a skiers' paradise as resorts enjoyed some of the finest powder in years.

28

**1976:** Half of the homes in Fort Erie, ON, were without electricity as a 2-day ice storm tore down power lines. Crews from Buffalo, NY, helped restore power, water, and sewage treatment services. Said one official, "The downed wires looked like great masses of spaghetti."

29

## FEBRUARY

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# March 2004

## APRIL

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2001: Warmer-than-normal temperatures prompted the city of Yellowknife, NT, to remind store owners to keep their store fronts and sidewalks clear, including their awnings. So far this winter, nearly 30% more snowfall than normal has fallen, with much of it dropping from store awnings and hitting sidewalks in weighty clumps.

1

2003: As eastern Canadians faced accumulating snow cover and record cold temperatures, gardeners on Vancouver Island busied themselves counting flowers. Promoted by Tourism Victoria, this year's tally was 3,442,622,305 blossoms. Plum and cherry trees bloomed more than 2 weeks earlier than normal, causing concern that the blossoms might die off before they were counted.

2

2003: Brutally cold weather prevailed across Ontario, producing some of the lowest temperatures ever seen in March. In Toronto, for example, the temperature dipped to -23.1°C—the coldest March day since 1873. Factor in 30 km/h winds and it felt like -34°C. The cold prompted a high demand for electricity. One street musician said it was an 8-layer day.

3

1935: An intense blizzard raged across the Prairies, marooning citizens for days. Travellers took trains and horse-drawn sleighs to get into town. In Winnipeg, MB, more than 38 cm of snow fell in the greatest one-day snowfall in the city's history. Although the storm cost thousands of dollars, it was a boon for unemployed men and part-time workers.

4

1882: A winter storm paralyzed parts of the eastern Prairies for 3 days. The storm became known as the Meadow Lee disaster. Meadow Lee is a small settlement north of Winnipeg, MB. At the height of the storm, a settler's home caught fire, forcing 4 occupants outside. Although shelter was close at hand, the victims lost their way and froze to death.

5

1920: A southwest gale swept the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia near Halifax, inflicting much damage in Liverpool. The winds blew down fences, broke windows, and demolished a tall chimney on Trinity Church, forcing the cancellation of services. An old wreck that had lain dockside for 14 years was carried into the river and smashed into the public bridge.

6

Full Moon 

2003: In near-perfect sunny weather, more than 2,000 pupils, teachers, staff, and parents from 7 schools in Ottawa, ON, "made angels" on a snow-covered school ground. The collective action was intended to set a record for *Guinness World Records*. The tally counted 2,285 snow angels, which smashed the record of 1,791, held by a group in North Dakota.

7

2003: Several Prairie communities set new daily low-temperature records including Brandon (-35.4°C) and Winnipeg (-34.6°C). In Edmonton, the -42.2°C temperature beat the old record by more than 10 degrees. It was so cold in Calgary that a local newspaper joked there hadn't been a single drive-by shooting all week—it was too cold to roll down the windows.

8

1916: Heavy rainfall swamped BC's Lower Mainland, flooding roads and filling hundreds of basements and ground floors with muddy water. Marooned in their homes, many residents took to boats to venture outdoors. Outside the city, the Chinese market gardens suffered extensive damage from heavy silt deposits. The flood drowned poultry, pheasants, and grouse.

9

1989: Soon after takeoff from the Dryden Airport, an Air Ontario jet, with snow- and ice-encrusted wings, crashed in dense bush. Conditions were perfect for the formation of wing ice. Of the 69 people aboard, 24 perished. Rescuers had to plow through a metre of snow to get to survivors.

10

2003: About 15 to 25 cm of snow fell in Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks, BC. The heavy snow, combined with sudden warming, triggered 2 avalanches that blocked the Trans-Canada Highway for days. The slides were so powerful that the snow front crossed the valley floor and climbed up the other side. Many truckers opted for alternate routes, adding about 10 hours to their trips.

11

Weather Quiz  
In a recent poll the residents of what city did NOT rate weather as the number one thing they hate about their city?

12

- 1) Halifax
- 2) Edmonton
- 3) Ottawa
- 4) Calgary
- 5) Winnipeg

(Answer on inside back cover)

2003: A report from a weather spotter south of Pincher Creek, AB: "Winds gusting to 174 km/h, with sustained winds of 130–150 km/h. Calves rolling like tumbleweeds, several dead. 10 inches of snow on the ground yesterday, all melted; local flooding—1 foot deep over some roads; water blowing off flooded areas in sheets ... Strongest recorded winds since buying instrument 7 years ago."

13

Last Quarter 

1922: Heavy crashes of thunder reverberated for nearly two and a half minutes over Truro, NS. Lightning set a barn on fire, destroying it. Another lightning strike instantly killed a horse in a barn about 3 km away. In one case, a lady standing by a window was hit in the face with earth thrown from a flowerpot.

14

1974: A storm dumped up to 30 cm of snow across Alberta and Saskatchewan, resulting in at least one death. Snow formed huge drifts, 1 m deep and 1 km long, and disrupted travel, causing uncounted traffic accidents. In Saskatchewan, highway department workers walked off the job hours after the blizzard struck, bringing snow-clearing operations to a virtual halt.

15

1959: An intense storm with near-record winds blew throughout southern Ontario and Quebec. At Uplands Airport in Ottawa, light planes had to be tied down. In Hamilton, 2 buildings lost their roofs. In the Niagara region, winds carried away the roof of a high school. In Brampton, the storm toppled 2 large chicken hatcheries and tipped over 4 planes.

16

2003: Police blamed heavy morning fog, the result of warm temperatures and rapidly melting snow, for a series of pileups on Ontario's Highway 400, near Barrie. The smash-up derby involved more than 200 vehicles. Officials brought in a crane to untangle the heap of vehicles in a 50-car crash, in what someone else called a "complete wall of metal."

17

1885: A snowstorm ushered in by a strong northwesterly gale brought life to a standstill in western Nova Scotia. Another snowfall the next day voided the previous day's clean-up. There was no mail service in and out of Yarmouth for 5 days. It was said to be the most remarkable snowstorm to occur in Yarmouth in 50 years.

18

1999: A freight plane crashed in Labrador, killing a pilot on the ice of Davis Inlet harbour. Weather conditions were terrible all day, with blowing snow and severe whiteouts. The Provincial Airlines Twin Otter was totalled; its wings, engine, and supplies were scattered over the ice. There was no sign of a fire or explosion.

19

1922: A "Spring Ban" against motor vehicles on the public highways of Nova Scotia went into effect and continued until May 1. The ban attempted to prevent roads from being ruined by frost heaving, thus decreasing the cost of maintenance. At the same time motorists would save on the wear and tear of their cars.

20

Spring Equinox  
01:49 ESTNew Moon 

St. Patrick's Day

**1927:** Tracks in fresh snow led to the arrest of a Montreal, PQ, thief who entered an unattended store and stole \$95. Behind the store, police found footprints leading to a nearby house. The boot size was 7, which matched that of an obvious suspect. Confronted with this evidence and the discovery of the stolen money minutes later, the suspect admitted his guilt.

21

**1992:** A major spring snowstorm bringing 38 cm of snow and metre-high drifts paralyzed Cape Breton, NS. Whiteout conditions forced authorities to shut down the Canso Causeway and Sydney Airport. Marine Atlantic ferries could not make port at Sydney and Port aux Basques. Cancellations included everything from church services and bingos to flea markets and schools.

22

**1907:** March lightning storms in Newfoundland are rare. At Harbour Grace, lightning wrecked a house. At Cape Broyle, another strike burst through the windows of one residence, setting fire to curtains, clothes, and papers. Yet another strike exploded in a room underneath an office. Fortunately, the fire was extinguished without much damage.

23

**1910:** At Rideau Ferry, ON, lightning ran through a woodshed, along a passageway between two large piles of wood. The bolt ripped up two floorboards, fully 3 m apart, and stood them on end. It then entered the house. Every bedroom window in the house was blown out with the exception of the one where a woman lay seriously ill.

24

**2003:** About a month ago, an ice wall formed in the harbour at Beresford, NB, when high tides and strong winds pushed ice from the Bay of Chaleur onto the shore. The blue-tinged ice wall was a top attraction, especially among the thousands of spectators attending the Canada Winter Games. A month later, the wall was still drawing huge crowds.

25

**1979:** The combination of a swollen, ice-filled river and the greatest rainfall in 78 years produced major flooding on the Saint John River near Fredericton, NB. Waters washed away sections of the Trans-Canada Highway and the CPR tracks near Hoyt and Stanley. In Nashwaak Valley, officials ordered the evacuation of 12 families.

26

**1999:** The weight of a record snowpack on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast threatened to collapse key transmission lines supplying about 60% of local power needs. Nineteen steel towers supporting two 500-kilovolt lines along a stretch of the Coast Mountains started to crack and buckle at their main legs or cross-supports when the snowpack reached the 9-m mark.

27

**1984:** A severe winter storm left about 50 cm of heavy, wet snow on the Avalon Peninsula, NF. Winds gusting to 90 km/h, combined with blinding snow, reduced visibility to near zero and piled drifts 2 m high. So many events were cancelled that radio stations announced only what was still open instead of what was closed—the list was shorter that way.

28

**1928:** The South Saskatchewan River went on a rampage, driving families from their homes near Pike Lake, south of Saskatoon, SK. A barrier of ice extended across the river causing flooding across the whole valley. Several families barely escaped with their lives, but hundreds of farm animals and wildlife drowned.

29

**2002:** A warm winter and stormy spring meant the ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence was unusually thin and melted early. As a result, any harp seal pups born in the Gulf likely died. Newborn harp seal pups require at least 12 days on the ice to gain weight and to complete nursing, and about 3 weeks to completely molt their pelts.

30

**1962:** A 3-day storm dumped up to 110 mm of rain at Moncton, NB. The resulting flooding inundated homes, businesses, and streets under 1 m of water. One bridge collapsed while a motorist still scrambled to get across. Motorists following were able to stop just in time and quickly formed a barrier on each side to prevent accidents.

31

MARCH						
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# April 2004

MAY							1
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1882: The Assiniboine River near Brandon, MB, spilled its banks and filled the entire valley. The CPR bridge would have been swept away, had it not been held down by flat cars loaded with steel rails. Settlers streaming west had to walk and swim their cattle and horses across the swollen rivers. At times wagons lay half-buried in an "ocean of gumbo."	2001: Another wintry blast crippled Atlantic Canada with deep snow. On Cape Breton, NS, snowdrifts were so high and heavy that plows got stuck, leaving roads impassable. Funerals, flights, and ferries were cancelled. Students got another day off school. A 67-year-old couple was house-bound by 5 metres of heavy plowed snow blocking their driveway.	2000: Report from a climate observer at Baldur, MB: "We are truly having a different year. The creek south of the station started running in mid-February—the first time that it has started running before March. There has been no snow on the ground all of March. Crocuses and pussy willows are in full bloom. Crows, geese, robins, seagulls, killdeer, and other migrants have been seen."
2001: In Newfoundland, a fierce storm hit the same day a massive public-service strike started, which kept most snowplow drivers at home. More than 60 cm of snow blocked provincial roads and highways for days, leading to food, fuel, and drug shortages in many small communities. The storm did much to bring labour and management together to end the dispute.	2001: A seasick blue heron, blown far off course, dropped in on a supply boat for the Newfoundland oil rigs. Rough weather prevented airlifting him to shore. Treating the heron like royalty, the crew gave him his own room and private bathroom, where he feasted on scallops and shrimp, and enjoyed a daily shower. Back on shore, the bird was turned over to the Canadian Wildlife Service.	1886: Report from one farmer in Amherstburg, ON: "My sow gave birth to ten little pigs that stormy night ... old sow got through her breakfast but couldn't turn around to get back to the pigs ... [with] a three-foot wall of snow on each side of her. She didn't know enough to go in reverse so I had to go up to her and scoop a 'turntable' so she could right about to get back to her pen."	1918: A thunderstorm with damaging hail descended on the Ottawa area. At Aylmer, PQ, roads strewn with trees were impassable, so many Ottawa residents spent the night there. One motorist recounted driving over the Somerset Bridge when a large hailstone struck his glasses, breaking one lens. The next instant, another hailstone smashed the other lens.	1979: The third major storm in 5 days dumped snow (2-day total of 44 cm at Hamilton), freezing rain (13 mm at London), and ice pellets over southwestern Ontario. Stiff winds caused heavy drifting, forcing thousands to be storm-stayed at home or work. Officials closed regional and city schools in Hamilton. At one school, the principal was the only one to arrive.	2000: Brisk winds of 90 km/h sent huge ice floes, some measuring 6 m across, smashing through a half dozen properties at Lake George, near Fredericton, NB. Ice chunks knocked docks off their moorings and pushed others up vertically. Ice also blocked roads to the shore. The wind likely created downward pressure on the lake that forced the ice up and onto the shore.	Weather Quiz What is the worst month for avalanches in Canada? 1) January 2) February 3) March 4) April 5) May  (Answer on inside back cover)
Palm Sunday Daylight Saving Time Begins	Full Moon	Passover Begins			Good Friday	
1999: With temperatures approaching 20°C this week, residents of southern Ontario busied themselves with gardening chores. Today, heavy rain, high winds, and general freezing, followed by 2 to 5 cm of snow and ice pellets, gripped the region. Winds gusted up to 70 km/h, bringing down several trees and snapping hydro, telephone, and television cables.	1983: Another winter storm plagued Winnipeg, MB. Electric cars made occasional trips, usually only for short distances. It was the worst blockade of the winter for the transit system. The local operatic society, with its penchant for staging openings on stormy nights, held their first performance of <i>Dorothy</i> today and was thus blamed for yet another weather mess.	2001: The Edmonton Trappers baseball team issued toques to the first 2,000 fans at the season opener. The weather at game time was winds from the northwest at 15 km/h, a temperature of 5.2°C, with wet flurries. The club said some players, especially those from California, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico, would probably have appreciated the headgear more than the fans.	2002: Near-tornado-force winds caused a blinding dust storm and complete blackouts along the Trans-Canada Highway near Medicine Hat, AB, triggering a 10-vehicle chain-reaction pileup that left 4 people dead and 16 injured. Mounties closed all lanes of the major highway for 4 hours. The brownout was like a winter whiteout.	1904: The worst April snowstorm in 30 years struck parts of southern Ontario. In Toronto, 8 cm of snow blocked streetcar routes and disrupted railway traffic. In the Niagara Peninsula, 15 to 30 cm of snow covered the ground. In the Hamilton rail yard, a "pony" engine fell on its side, and the escaping steam kept the whistle blowing for about an hour.	2002: In central Canada, the spring had been unseasonably cool, but suddenly it turned hot. Twenty-three high-temperature records were set across Ontario as temperatures soared to 30°C. Adding the humidex reading, it reached 35°C. Montreal, PQ, saw record highs with 28°C. In Toronto, ON, the roof of the SkyDome was open for the night's Blue Jays game, the first time it's been open in April.	1935: The Black Sunday prairie storm was one of the most memorable dust storms of the Dirty Thirties. Ships' crews far out into the Atlantic had to sweep decks that had been covered in prairie dust. In some cases, soil piled up so high in attics that ceilings collapsed. Some people hung wet sheets and blankets over doors and windows to keep the dust out.
Easter Sunday Last Quarter						

**1882:** At Sherbrooke, PQ, the St. Francis River peaked at its highest level ever since records were first kept in the 1880s. Firefighters evacuated 300 residents. The Eaton River, usually about 17 m wide, grew to 1/2 km across. The rising waters flooded barns and drowned a herd of prize Holsteins. In Ascot-Corner, PQ, the only dry place in town was the village swimming pool.

18

**1890:** Hundreds of immigrants were aboard the steamer *Lake Nepigon*. After narrowly averting a collision with an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean, the ship spent 6 days tightly jammed in pack ice off Cape Ray, NF. The ice began to shove under the ship, increasing the likelihood of capsizing, but at a critical moment the jam ceased, and the danger passed.

19

**1941:** A nasty spring rain and snowstorm raged across northeastern Ontario. As temperatures dropped and winds strengthened, the snow piled into drifts a metre deep. The day before, 28 German prisoners of war escaped from an internment camp. The searchers believed the storm, with no prospect of letting up, would foil the escapees' efforts.

20

**1997:** Alberta spent almost \$800,000 on a feed-and-fencing program for wildlife, to keep food intended for livestock from being devoured by herds of hungry deer and elk. A decade of mild winters had allowed the wild animals to flourish, but the increased population couldn't find enough food during the previous two winters, which were cold and snowy.

21

**2002:** During a spring snowstorm in Montreal, PQ, they gave away free ice cream at Ben & Jerry's ice cream parlour. The crowds weren't as big at the free-cone day for loyal customers as last year's, when it took place on 2 May, and temperatures soared to 32°C. One appreciative customer said: "The best thing about eating ice cream on a cold day is, it doesn't melt."

22

**2001:** An international search team rescued 5 hunters and 12 dogs trapped on ice floes in Canada's Arctic, thanks in part to Environment Canada's Ice Service, which identified areas where ice was breaking away from the shore. A Hercules airplane spotted the missing hunters off Broughton Island, about 700 km northeast of Iqaluit. They were eventually rescued by a chopper from Greenland.

23

**1999:** In Edmonton, AB, the temperature soared to 23°C. Everyone seemed happy as "Old Man Winter" finally seemed to take flight. At the Dairy Queen, daily ice cream sales rose with the temperature, by about 90%. At the Ranch Golf Club, it was one of the busiest days ever, but it wasn't warm enough for the Helios Nudist Association to open its Tofield-area colony for the summer.

24

New Moon ●

**2002:** The Edmonton Police Services' bomb squad raced to the city's north end after a resident found a suspicious Styrofoam box with stray wires, marked: "Reward. Instructions Enclosed." Taking no chances, officials deployed a robot to X-ray, photograph, and blast the box with a water cannon, only to discover that it was part of a downed Environment Canada weather balloon.

25

**1854:** Soon after a violent thunder squall sprang up on Lake Ontario, an immense wave swamped and drowned two fishers on the shore. The water surged, and the return flow—a seiche—came and went three times before calming down. There was no wind blowing to cause the unprecedented swell of water. Speculation was that there has been an earthquake in the bed of the lake.

26

**1913:** A slight flurry of snow in Calgary, AB, added to the discomfort of pedestrians and those riding in open vehicles. The inclement weather was largely responsible for small attendance at local churches and deserted streets. Outside the city, a hail swath covered the ground to a depth of 5 cm.

27

**1967:** Heavy wet snow and blustery winds up to 90 km/h struck southern Alberta. The 88 cm of snow this week combined with 70 cm last week to isolate small communities and create havoc on roads for weeks. One snowplow operator discovered he had been rolling an abandoned car over and over. Hundreds of newborn calves were buried under tonnes of wet snow.

28

**1938:** Each year on Lake Laberge, YT, a shipping company laid oil and lampblack across the spotless ice to mark the route the ships would follow when the navigation season opened. Immediately, the sun's rays would start melting the blackened ice. Then one of the company's steamers would attack the black strip and, with comparative ease, open up a channel.

29

**2001:** In parts of Yukon, spring break-up happened earlier than usual this year. For only the second time since 1896, the Gold Rush capital of Dawson City cancelled its annual ice pool in which locals enter a guess on when the ice will go out. Experts claimed a milder winter, along with a heavier blanket of insulating snow, made for the thin ice cover.

30

First Quarter ●



APRIL

1 2 3  
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# May 2004

JUNE

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1921: One of the most violent windstorms in years whipped across Saskatchewan, suspending all farm operations, especially seeding. In Regina, winds blew down several fences, chimneys, and signs. In Moose Jaw, construction work was suspended. In Saskatoon, winds carried away recording instruments at the University of Saskatchewan.

2

1922: A lightning bolt struck a couple and their horse unconscious just outside Fort Lawrence, NS. Regaining consciousness, the woman found herself under the horse's head. She aroused her husband and, with difficulty, the dazed couple brought the now lame horse from its stupor. However, the usually spirited animal could only shamle across the marsh.

3

2002: Spring skipped over the west! Today in Calgary, AB, the high was only -1°C in light flurries, about 14° cooler than normal. Skiers and snowboarders were happy—not so, the frustrated golfers and gardeners. One garden centre owner said it has been the worst spring for business since he started in 1960. Up to 40 cm of snow fell in one day, nearing the record 48.4 cm of 6 May 1981.

4

1893: Immigrants fresh from Russia arrived in Manitoba and found their new land flooded. To save 150 young pigs, one farmer took them to the upper storey of a large granary. Farmers tried to move their stock in rowboats and on rafts. Dirty drinking water put people at risk of typhoid. The inability to maintain heating and cooking fires caused suffering for everyone.

5

2002: Vancouver, BC, shivered in snow and 3°C temperatures, when 10°C is the normal day's high. May snowfalls are a rarity here. In parts of the province, it was the heaviest spring snowfall in 65 years. About 6 cm fell in the eastern Lower Mainland, and about 1 cm in North Vancouver. The cold temperatures pushed back the growing season by 5 weeks.

6

1986: A golfer recalls being hit by lightning in Toronto, ON: "I don't remember being knocked down, but I remember I could hear it humming through me. Like that sound you hear at a hydro substation. I tried to move. Couldn't. Finally, I managed to get up, roll my friend over, and give him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation." Both men survived. [*Canadian Geographic*]

7

1946: A "black blizzard" raked the western Prairies. The 4-hour storm filled the atmosphere with tonnes of dirt. At 5,000 m, the dirt froze on ice on the wings of a Trans-Canada Airlines plane flying over the Rockies. Poor visibility forced motorists to use their headlights. The black blizzard happened when many residents choose to clean or paint their homes.

8

Full Moon 

1884: At about 6:30 a.m., lightning damaged a residence in High Head, NS. The blast crushed the chimney, broke 60 panes of glass, and shattered the north side of the building so badly that it had to be re-bounded and re-shingled. Lightning also took out the phones at many businesses.

9

1920: A storm with torrents of rain and freezing rain blew from the southwest across Conception Bay in Newfoundland. At Bell Island, the wind blew in the side of the courthouse. At Portugal Cove, it crushed the new mill house, tore two spires from the Methodist Church, hurling them some distance, and moved the Church of England schoolhouse out of alignment.

10

1986: A powerful tornado struck south of Morden, MB, tearing up farm buildings and ripping the tops off evergreens. Winds carried beams from one shed roof for 100 m and drove them 30 cm into the ground. The next day, a farmer led reporters, a busload of teenagers, and other curious strangers around his battered property to stare at the damage.

11

1984: Eyewitnesses reported a series of funnel clouds and tornadoes in a single thunderstorm that moved southeast from Broadview, SK, to Elkhorn, MB, during a 2-hour period. One farmer took refuge from rain, snow, and hailstones in a steel granary. He stated that he "felt like Oscar the Grouch hiding in a garbage can, with someone walling on the can with a stick."

12

**Weather Quiz**  
Traffic safety experts say road rage occurs most commonly on Fridays, during afternoon rush hour, and is far more likely during:

13

- 1) rainy weather
- 2) thunderstorms
- 3) blowing snow
- 4) hot, humid weather
- 5) sunny weather

2002: In Nova Scotia, a wicked storm, packing winds close to 100 km/h, blew a cube van off a tow truck's hitch on the Halifax-Dartmouth bridge, sending it sliding on its side into a tractor-trailer heading the other way. Officials banned high-sided vehicles for a few hours, the first time in history that restrictions were put on certain-sized vehicles on the MacKay Bridge because of wind.

14

1993: Heavy snowmelt and a thunderstorm caused swollen Williams Creek to jump its banks and flood historic Barkerville, BC, a provincial park commemorating the 1862 Cariboo Gold Rush. Flood water raged down the main street. Many of the buildings were on pilings, indicating that similar experiences probably occurred during the gold rush.

15

**1899:** Lightning damaged several homes in Sarnia, ON. At one home, a lightning bolt knocked a hammer from a man's grip. Simultaneously, the man saw what seemed to be a ball of fire strike next door. There, the current smashed windows, splintered the sash, and surged across the room and down the stovepipe hole to the room below, where it tore holes in the floor.

16

**2002:** A British explorer attempting his second walk to the North Pole across Canada's Arctic, asked to be airlifted from a hand-built runway, after becoming trapped on floating ice, caught between ice rubble and open water. Threatened by polar bears, he worried that in a week there would be a full moon that would trigger a gravitational pull so great, the ice would rise up about him.

17

**1996:** At Pilot Butte, SK, powerful winds picked up a farmer and carried him 130 m before dropping his battered body. The farmer explained: "I had just moved the tractor into the shop when I saw three cows crossing the yard. They weren't at eye-level, they had literally been swept off their feet by the wind ... I survived the storm, but I was as black as the Ace of Spades."

18

**1637:** *Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents 1637-1638:* Huronia (now Midland, ON) had 15 cm of snow. A few days before, the natives in the villages around the area had played lacrosse because a sorcerer had told them that good weather depended solely upon their playing this game. When it snowed, the natives openly declared the sorcerer a charlatan and an impostor.

19

**2002:** On Victoria Day weekend in southern Ontario, ground temperatures dropped to -6°C amid snow flurries and ice pellets. Vendors of pools, boats, and gardening supplies struggled to attract customers in the wet weather and record low temperatures. For a pool company in Windsor, it was one of the worst springs in 35 years, with the number of impulse buyers down by 20%.

20

**2002:** A snowstorm in Calgary, AB, brought strong, gusty winds, thunder, and lightning. Some areas of southwestern Alberta got 40 cm of snow. The day's high in Calgary was a shivering 1.7°C, colder than Omsk, Siberia, where it was 28°C, and North Pole, Alaska, where it was 24°C. Children at soccer games wore extra layers, and referees bent the rules to allow it.

21

**1921:** A thunderstorm burst over Halifax, NS, just as patrons left the theatres. Hundreds sought shelter in tea rooms and ice cream parlours, under awnings, and inside doorways and hotel lobbies. In Windsor, NS, a lightning bolt entered a home and partly destroyed the main chimney, numerous panes of glass, and, oddly, the china. It also lit the kerosene lamp carried by a lady.

22

**1893:** A fierce wind-storm and possible tornado touched down in Montreal, PQ, inflicting extensive damage.

23

**1977:** The 750 residents of Lafleche, SK, assessed damage caused by today's hailstorm.

Victoria Day

24

**1896:** In Manitoba, a thousand people went out to Winnipeg's River Park to see Professor Menler make his balloon ascension and parachute jump, and his 25-m leap into the river from a tower. The professor was ready to perform, but the wind was too violent for the balloon ascension, and the ground too wet for people to view the leap from the tower.

25

**1918:** Frost dealt a severe blow to ranchers and truck gardeners in the Kelowna, BC, area. Freezing temperatures damaged tomatoes, beans, marrow squash, and other vegetables and fruits. With the increased prices offered for tomatoes, farmers planted every available acre for production. Some covered their tender plants with blankets and newspapers.

26

**2002:** This day marked the 10th anniversary of the development of Canada's UV index—the handy measure of ultraviolet intensity in wide use today in more than 25 countries. It was conceived in 1992, amid growing public awareness of and fear about the depleted ozone layer and its waning ability to filter out the radiation that's the proven, principal cause of skin cancer.

27

**2002:** Alberta's largest forest fire in 2002, and the second costliest ever, was the House River Fire near Conklin. For three weeks it burned out of control and sent smoke drifting as far south as Calgary. At its peak, more than 900 firefighters, 45 helicopters, and 8 water bombers were working to contain the fire. The fire was so huge that it created its own lightning.

28

**1911:** Lightning struck 6 worshippers praying at a church in Ste.-Cecil-de-Masham, PQ. The crash deafened the congregation; with the noise came darkness and an outburst of cries. The priest and congregation then began removing sacred vessels and relics from the church, one of the oldest in the province. A second bolt ignited the church and adjoining buildings.

29

**1990:** A heavy rainfall set new records for the greatest precipitation in 24 hours during May at Charlottetown, PEI, and Greenwood, NS.

30

**1895:** A cyclone struck Brokenhead, MB, carrying a 7-m long log from a wall a distance of 20 m.

31

New Moon ●

First Quarter ●

MAY

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# June 2004

JULY

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		<b>1985:</b> The first regular train on the Halifax-Montreal route since 1981 rolled into Montreal, PQ, more than 2 hours late, due to record rains in southern New Brunswick. Saint John received 111.2 mm in 24 hours, which forced the closure of several streets and flooded at least 50 basements. Oitches filled to overflowing, and cars were stuck in rim-deep water.	<b>2002:</b> Two British women made history when they reached the North Pole, becoming the first female explorers to walk to both Poles. The 81-day journey took them 660 km across the Arctic. A third woman pulled out of the trek because of frostbitten toes. They endured 3 violent storms during the trek, one with winds so strong that they could neither pitch a tent nor eat and drink.	<b>1999:</b> Clouds of yellow pine tree pollen fell onto the Bay of Quinte and the smaller inland lakes of Prince Edward County, ON. Transported by the wind, the large volume of pollen was the result of the warmer-than-usual spring. A waxy substance coating the pollen made it quite buoyant. It gathered along shorelines and became a large floating mat in bays, sometimes as deep as 15 cm.	<b>1990:</b> Nearly 40,000 cyclists took over the streets of Montreal, PQ, in the Tour de l'Île. The cyclists braved heavy rains. One rider said it was worth the soaking to be able to cycle along 67 km of streets unclogged by cars. Streets left slick by occasional rainstorms took their toll as ambulances were called for 43 accidents—26 people were taken to hospital.	<b>Weather Quiz</b> Which activity is most associated with lightning strikes? 1) talking on the telephone 2) playing golf 3) working on heavy equipment 4) being out in an open field 5) boating, fishing, swimming (Answer on inside back cover)
<b>1999:</b> A family of tornadoes ripped up trees and dumped baseball-sized hail over a wide section of southern Manitoba. One twister touched down around 3:30 p.m. in the Piney area, 130 km southeast of Winnipeg. Said one resident, "Our dog house was thrown about 10 feet with the dog inside." The dog escaped unscathed.	<b>1989:</b> Near the 8th hole at an Ingersoll, ON, golf course, lightning struck a tree where 3 golfers huddled to keep dry. The blow knocked one man unconscious. He suffered burns to the top of his head and the bottom of his feet. Inside his pants pocket, a metal greens repair tool was burned out. One of the other players suffered burns to his wrist where he wore his watch.	<b>1985:</b> Hurricane-force winds swept across the eastern Prairies, causing heavy soil erosion, damaging buildings, and cutting power lines. Hundreds of farmers had to replant their crops in the aftermath of the dust storm. The winds also propelled steel granaries across fields, scattered bales of hay like toys, and tilted towering farm silos.	<b>2002:</b> What began 3 days ago as a light sprinkle south of the Trans-Canada Highway in Alberta turned into biblical-sized deluges over 3 days. Record rains dumped up to 280 mm of water, transforming dustbowls into mudbowls. Brockton, AB, got a year's worth of rain. Although farmers in parched lands should have rejoiced, the deluge of water washed away seeds and further delayed the planting season.	<b>1939:</b> A gale over Lake Erie sank a dredge and damaged a federal dock under construction at Leamington, ON. Overland, the storm flattened barns and garages, toppled a windmill, and upset 2 brooder houses. One coop containing 300 baby chicks was carried nearly half a kilometre. The owner found most of the chicks in the field where the coop landed.	<b>1991:</b> A violent thunderstorm with powerful winds caused extensive damage across southern Saskatchewan. At Regina, winds gusting to 141 km/h kicked up dust. At the airport, one hangar door was open at the time of the peak wind, and the back wall was severely damaged. In the city, winds tore the roofs off several buildings and moved a garage between two homes.	<b>1892:</b> The House of Commons can fill with stagnant air and oppressive heat. This week the temperature soared to 32.2°C. Coats were a burden, but in the presence of the Speaker and his silk robe, they must be worn. A few members waved big palm leaf fans—Sir John Thompson would create himself, every now and then, a little artificial breeze and would then share the fan with his desk mate.
	World Environment Day		Last Quarter	Full Moon		
<b>1897:</b> A severe storm struck near Oak Lake, MB, inflicting extensive damage. Lightning struck a home, tearing off a number of shingles. One guest, a commercial traveller, left scared and went to the other side of town where, on his arrival, the battlement front was blown down; fortunately no one was hurt, as all had gone to tea.	<b>1982:</b> A powerful tornado slammed into the tiny town of Ste-Rose, PQ. The frail wooden schoolhouse took the biggest hit with portions of the building landing 2 km away. Twenty-five children were in the building when the storm struck. Three died and 5 were injured, including the teacher. In Gatineau, the tornado uprooted trees, destroyed fences and outbuildings, and caused more death.	<b>1921:</b> One of the most severe thunderstorms that Halifax, NS, and vicinity ever experienced struck the city about 3:30 p.m. and lasted about 2 hours. Hailstones the size of marbles beat down gardens and shattered the glass of hot-houses and some dwellings. The storm interrupted convocation exercises at 2 women's colleges.	<b>2002:</b> Intense rainfalls that flooded the fields in southern Manitoba a week ago yielded a bountiful crop of fish. One group of students dragged a 30-m-long net across a field near the swollen Red River and caught catfish, saugers, suckers, bullheads and emerald shiners, and carp. The fish fed on earthworms crawling on the grass.	<b>2000:</b> One day after departing St. John's, NF, for Ireland in a kayak, an adventurer had to bail out of his tiny coffin-shaped life raft. A faulty one-way valve on the kayak's side scuttled his dream of paddling the 4,800-km trip solo. He fell into the icy North Atlantic while trying to fix the leaky valve. Weather conditions had been foggy, but otherwise calm.	<b>1933:</b> A powerful windstorm broke a superheated spell over southern Manitoba. In Brandon, the winds ripped out trees, smashed glass on light standards, and peeled off roofs. At the fairgrounds, the storm tossed cattle sheds around like matchboxes. It destroyed one of the biggest barns in the district and blew 5 boxcars several hundred metres down the side track.	<b>2001:</b> A tornado lasting 30 seconds and packing winds between 180 and 250 km/h touched down between Alma and St-Gedeon, PQ. The unusual 10-minute storm damaged roofs, cut power lines, and uprooted trees and posts. The fact that high winds and driving rain occurred before the tornado touched down forced many people to stay inside and likely saved lives.
				New Moon		

**2001:** Each year about 15,000 icebergs begin their journey along the west coast of Greenland. About 1,000 make it to southern Labrador and a few hundred to the shallow, foggy Grand Banks. This year northeasterly winds shoved the bergs against the Labrador coast and into the bays of northern Newfoundland, creating a shorter and lighter "Iceberg year" than normal.

Father's Day  
Summer Solstice 20:57 EDT

**1997:** Thunder, hail, and rain washed out farewell ceremonies at Currie Barracks in Calgary, AB, cancelling half the tattoo and sunset ceremonies intended to mark the final departure of military troops from Calgary. The weather also forced suspension of the Pacific Coast League baseball game. But what did they expect? Prior to the game, the club gave fans promotional red-and-white umbrellas.

**1932:** A fierce storm lasting only half an hour inflicted much damage near Milestone, SK. The winds uprooted 10 km of telephone poles south of town. It also lifted a house off its foundation and smashed it into kindling. The only occupant jumped about 5 m, spraining his foot. The storm also blew away 3 granaries and drowned 60 chickens.

**1894:** Lightning struck and killed a labourer at Austin, MB, while he was tying a cow to a wagon during a thunderstorm. One of his pant legs and a shoe were torn off. The cow and wagon were untouched.

**1997:** In Bonavista, NF, the Queen, Prince Phillip, and 30,000 visitors watched intently as the replica of John Cabot's 3-masted caravel ended its gruelling North Atlantic voyage from Bristol, after 53 days on the storm-tossed ocean, with waves the size of houses. Temperatures dipped to -2°C with wind chill, as the crew had to navigate past an iceberg at the harbour entrance.

St-Jean-Baptiste Day

**1880:** A thunderstorm accompanied by wind and egg-sized hail struck the Battleford, SK, area. Rain fell briefly and then "embryo icebergs" began to fall. Soon, nearly every pane of north-west-facing glass in town was shattered. Cotton was used to cover the openings until the town's glass supply could be replenished. The winds also picked up manure heaps that stood in the way.

First Quarter ☾

**1989:** A rare hay-shower occurred over Mission Hill, BC. About 20 whirlwinds or dust devils picked up freshly cut stalks of timothy, wild oats, and other field grasses and littered the road, lawns, and roof tops. A farmer said: "At first we thought the kids were just throwing grass around, and we were going to tell them to stop."

**1910:** A terrible windstorm passed over Weyburn, SK. For 45 minutes the wind blew like a hurricane. It lifted and carried away garages, outbuildings, lumber piles, and boxes. At a farm house, a mother's arm was broken by flying timbers while she attempted to rescue her infant son, but before she could reach him, a board struck the child, killing him instantly.

**1996:** During an election, the returning officer in Selkirk, MB, was unable to declare results because a messenger collecting 9 or 10 ballot boxes by boat was still out on stormy Lake Winnipeg. The man had not been heard from and there were fears for his safety. However, Conservatives were confident that, in the end, their candidate would have a small majority.

**2002:** The 4-man crew of the *Skandia Atlantic Spirit* battled 12-m waves and heavy winds trying to break a 55-day, west-to-east record for rowing the Atlantic. The adventurers left St. John's, NF, on 11 June aboard a 10-m rowing boat. At least 3 times since leaving Canada, ocean storms forced them to stop rowing and crawl inside the cramped compartments for safety.

**1979:** A falling tree injured an Edmonton, AB, youth at Clear Lake Park during a fierce gale. Tornado-like winds swept through the Lac La Nonne, Fort Assiniboine, Peavine, and Camp Creek areas. An area beekeeper reported 2 overturned hives, but disputed the rumour that her bees "flew the coop" during the storm. "We've had more trouble with bears than we've had with winds," she said.

## JUNE

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## July 2004

## AUGUST

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

				<b>1999:</b> Near Vancouver, BC, the Cypress Bowl ski resort marked Canada Day with skiing and sledding on the more than 6 m of snow on the ground. At Grouse Mountain, organizers added snowboard demonstrations to their traditional Canada Day rock concert. Over the past winter, 1,584 cm of snow fell on Grouse Mountain, more than double the normal amount.	<b>1889:</b> During a severe thunderstorm in Thunder Bay, ON, lightning struck and killed a young man while he crossed a hallway in the Continental Hotel. Both the front and back hotel doors were open. There were no marks on his body, and none in the building.	<b>1912:</b> Intense heat gripped Montreal, PQ, all week, with temperatures exceeding 30°C every day. People suffering heat-related illnesses flocked to hospitals. Hundreds crowded into parks to relax during the day and to sleep at night. With water consumption at a million gallons a day, the city's water supply was running low. To conserve water, officials banned sprinklers.
				Canada Day	Full Moon ○	
<b>2002:</b> A small tornado touched down in northwestern New Brunswick at St-Jacques, uprooting hundreds of trees and lifting roofs from barns and houses. About 10,000 people lost power at the peak of the storm, which caused a flash flood in downtown Moncton. The Magic Mountain Water Park at Magnetic Hill closed when 1/2 m of mud oozed into the bottom of the wave pool.	<b>1897:</b> Lightning struck the church at Jonquière, PQ, knocking down the officiating priest. In the ensuing panic, 1 man was killed and 20 people were injured. The church burned to the ground, the third church in the district ignited by lightning in 2 weeks.	<b>2002:</b> Millions of residents in eastern Canada and the United States woke to the smell of acrid smoke and the sight of hazy skies. Satellite images revealed lightning-triggered forest fires south of James Bay in Quebec as the source. The fires were deemed the province's worst in a decade. Northerly flow carried the smoke as far south as Washington and Baltimore.	<b>1971:</b> The remnants of a tropical storm surprised a dozen inshore fishers from the Burin Peninsula, NF. As they were about to haul in 36,000 kg of fish, mountainous seas arrived. Hundreds of relatives and friends lined the shore, fearing for the men's safety. It was impossible to send out a search party. Miraculously, the fishers rowed ashore in 2 dories, at daybreak.	<b>1992:</b> A Saskatoon, SK, mother had just finished explaining storms and hail to her 2 small boys, assuring them that there was nothing to be afraid of, when lightning struck less than a metre from where they stood. Splinters from the door frame cut one boy's legs, and lightning blew off the doorbell. Said the mother, "They are never going to believe me now."	<b>1994:</b> A tornado cut a destructive swath through St. Charles, PQ, ripping walls and roofs off houses, and toppling power lines and century-old trees. As the clean-up began, one man sat calmly on his porch, his property unscathed, while the house next door was demolished. A barbecue landed on the bottom of a swimming pool, and a 3,000-kg rowboat landed on several treetops.	<b>2002:</b> At 36°C, Calgary, AB, was officially hotter than Hell—Hell, Michigan, that is, where it was only 31.1°C. It was very hot for those taking in the Stampede. A performer at the Stampede's Indian Village drank 12 bottles of water to cool off in his costume made of satin and eagle feathers. He claimed: "It's about twice as hot in this as it is outside."
	Aphelion 07:00 EOT				Last Quarter ○	
<b>1883:</b> The Thames River in London, ON, experienced its greatest flood ever, following 9 days of rain. A wall of water rushed down the river, jumped the bank, and flushed over London West, sweeping away houses and drowning 17 people, many still asleep in their beds. So powerful was the flood, the course of the Thames River was changed forever.	<b>1911:</b> Near Clifford, ON, lightning struck a barn where a farmer was milking. A fire ignited following the flash, but the quick-thinking man dashed a pail of milk over the flames, extinguishing the blaze and saving the building.	<b>2001:</b> A weather system spawned a tornado in Caroline, AB, damaging a barn, cracking some trees, and scattering a fence. The storm struck next to an RV campground and park, about 110 km northwest of Calgary. The twister appeared as residents of Pine Lake, AB, prepared to hold a memorial service honouring the 12 people killed and 140 injured in a tornado a year ago.	<b>1950:</b> Regina's weather forecast office issued the first tornado warning in Canada, prompted by a tornado sighting by a pilot flying near Johnstone Lake, SK. Radio stations broadcast the warnings, sending citizens into a near panic. When the tornado didn't strike, 300 angry kids, who had been hustled home from the movie theatres as a precaution, wanted to get even with the weathermen.	<b>1999:</b> Several new minimum temperature records were set across Alberta (Banff -2.5°C, Lethbridge 0.9°C, and Pincher Creek 2.5°C). In central Alberta, at Elnora, kids made snowmen in their first ever July snowfall. About 8 cm of snow covered the land between Red Deer and Nordegg. Calgary Stampede visitors donned toques and parkas against the cold and snow.	<b>1980:</b> A violent wind blew down 1 of the 2 outdoor screens at the Twin Drive-In Theatre in Windsor, ON. The manager changed the film marquee to read: "Not showing ... Gone with the Wind!" Elsewhere in the region, a couple lost 2 m off the top of their tall spruce tree. Their son placed a cardboard sign on the fallen tree advertising "Christmas tree for sale."	<b>Weather Quiz</b> When public weather forecasting began in Canada in the 1870s, weather forecasts were issued mid-morning and were valid for the next 24 hours. They were called: 1) weather futures 2) guesstimates 3) outlooks 4) chances 5) probabilities
						(Answer on inside back cover) New Moon ●

**2002:** Pest exterminators did big business in Edmonton, AB, this year getting rid of mice, wasps, ants, and gophers. Ants headed inside for water because it had been so dry. Gophers reproduced feverishly because of year-round mildness. At the same time, bees were stressed and non-productive because flowers were wilting, leading a beekeeper to apply for crop insurance for the first time in a decade.

18

**1989:** Several communities in Essex County, ON, declared a state of emergency after a storm dumped 450 mm of rain, far more than the 269 mm produced by the 48-hour Hurricane Hazel. Hundreds fled their homes as the storm wiped out roads and hydro lines, ruined crops, and swept three cottages into Lake Erie. Miraculously, only a few injuries were reported.

19

**1997:** While visiting friends on a nearby reserve with her family, a young Cree girl from Calgary, AB, was driving a band of 10 ponies during a severe thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning struck in their midst, killing every one of them, including the little girl, who was burnt beyond recognition.

20

**1922:** In Crystal Springs, SK, a tornado lifted a house and deposited it in a wheat field some distance away. All sloughs in the path of the tornado were dried up, as often happens when a tornado sucks up large quantities of water.

21

**2001:** Lightning took the lives of 2 men sheltering from a thunderstorm under a tree west of Toronto, ON. A single lightning bolt hit the tree directly and jumped across to the 2 friends, killing them instantly—a rare double fatality. When the emergency vehicles began to arrive, the rain was still so heavy that people 2 m away could barely see their flashing lights.

22

**2002:** A vicious rainstorm swept through central New Brunswick. The worst hit area was the permanent married quarters at CFB Gagetown, where 43 mm of rain fell in less than 2 hours. Flooded basements and backed-up sewers combined to produce problems for many families. Some roads were washed away in the flood. One brother team took a canoe down Restigouche Road.

23

**2001:** A young Calgary, AB, golfer was in the middle of his backswing on the 9th fairway when he was hit by a bolt of lightning. There was no warning and no distant flash, just a light rain. The victim only remembers being on the ground. "I'd stopped breathing, my eyes were rolled back in my head, and I couldn't move at first."

24

**1911:** In parts of Ottawa, ON, and outside the city, citizens couldn't believe their eyes—it was "snowing in July." Of course, there wasn't very much, but nevertheless, it was pure, unadulterated snow. Minimum temperatures were 8°C. Never before in the history of the observatory has snow been known to fall here in July.

25

**1933:** A brief windstorm cut through freight sheds of the Northern Navigation Co. at Point Edward, ON. Buildings collapsed like cards, leaving 1 dead and 21 injured. Men working in the sheds were trapped when the twister reduced the framework to scrap heaps. Debris piled up against train boxcars, imprisoning some workers. Others jumped into the water to avoid being crushed.

26

**2002:** Players and their fans battled wind and rain in Yellowknife, NT, to participate in a beach volleyball tournament, the 2002 NWT Open Beach Championships. Ten women's teams, 13 men's teams, and three junior teams were competing. Yellowknife had its second wettest July on record: 104.1 mm, compared to the record of 107.4 mm set in 1988.

27

**2002:** A crowd of 800,000 packed Downsview Park in North Toronto, ON, to celebrate mass with Pope John Paul II. At 5:00 that morning, a cold drenching rain resulted in hundreds being treated for hypothermia. Ironically, the day before, in scorching heat, hundreds had been treated for heat exhaustion and sunstroke as temperatures in the shade soared to a steamy 30°C.

28

**2002:** A pilot and his 2 young sons landed their rented Cessna 172 on a remote Vancouver Island beach, about 16 km from Tofino, BC, after they were soaked in by a thick wall of fog and low cloud. Search-and-rescue didn't find them until the next day. The family spent the night camped on the beach—safe and dry.

29

**1996:** Perfect weather and calm seas prevailed for 2 to 3 days, enabling salvage crews to hoist the *Irving Whale* off the bottom of the Gulf of St. Lawrence after a quarter of a century in the mud. Once off the seabed floor, it took only 70 minutes to raise her the 67 metres to the ocean surface. The good news was that there was only a trace of oil left at the site.

30

**1919:** After lightning struck a 20-m tree, in Burnaby, BC, all that remained was a jagged 2-m stump. One piece of the tree, weighing about 70 kg, was hurled 40 m past the corner of a house and onto the road. Eight windows in the house next door, and half a dozen in the adjacent one, were shattered. Attached to the fallen trees was a clothesline with charred garments.

31



JULY

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# August 2004

SEPTEMBER

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

**1907:** Lightning struck a house in Asbestos, PQ, causing considerable damage. After demolishing the chimney, the bolt parted, one current going down and out through a screen door, cutting it in two, and the other going through a room with 4 people in it. Although the ceilings and partitions were wrecked, the house did not ignite and no one was seriously injured.

**2** **2002:** Early in the day, a vicious storm raked an area near Belleville, ON. The winds flattened picnic tables, and damaged homes and cottages. Falling trees took out eavestroughs, aerials, porches, and stairs. Environment Canada called the sudden blast of wind a microburst. Said one resident, "Typical Canadians, understate everything: if it was American, it would be a cyclone."

**Civic Holiday**

**1915: A severe storm struck parts of eastern Ontario. Copious rain and strong wind did extensive damage to promising crops of wheat and barley. They had been harvesting around the clock, aided by women, because men were needed in the war effort. Near Kingston, at Camp Barriemfield, 2,000 soldiers had a lively time keeping the "canvas city" in place.**

**4** **1895:** Tornadoes are generally unknown in Nova Scotia. One of the worst twisters to hit the province touched down between Bridgetown and Paradise, in the Annapolis Valley. Twisting winds hurled hundreds of apple trees to the ground, flattened cereal crops, carried away fences, snapped miles of telegraph lines, and twisted sections of rail lines.

**1968:** Hailstones the size of baseballs broke windows in the Weyburn, SK, area. In one house, hail piled up a metre deep behind the chesterfield. Residents used snow shovels to push the hail out of the house.

**2002:** Near Fredericton, NB, a lightning bolt struck and killed 25 of the 32 Jersey cows huddled under a tree. A farmer found the cows dead in a pile. Two weeks earlier, a Hoyt-area farmer started milking his herd when lightning struck and killed 6 cows. The farmer said: "They went down like dominoes, falling in the same direction, with their rumps toward the rain."

**1907: A woman from Brookbury, PQ, had a close call with lightning. A bolt passed down the chimney and spread one current down the stairs and out the front door, making a groove in the floor. As she stood with her hand on the doorknob, the lightning tore her shoes and stockings to shreds, leaving only the rubber soles of her shoes on her badly burned feet.**

Last Quarter 

**1984:** From six to eight 600-metre-high waterspouts made a stately 25-km procession across Lake Winnipeg, dangling from a flat-topped black cloud. Upon reaching the shore, they dissipated. One eyewitness said he was struck by the absolute silence surrounding the event—no thunder, little lightning, and no noise from the spouts themselves. [*Leader Post, Regina*]

**2001:** The Canada Life weather beacon celebrated its 50th anniversary. Built at a cost of \$25,000, the beacon emitted its first signal in Toronto, ON, in 1951 and could be seen from boats on Lake Ontario. The beacon gives coded weather forecasts: red flashes for rain, white for snow, steady red for clouds, and a steady green for clear weather.

**2002:** Cottagers and residents on Georgian Bay were told to take extra care outdoors after 6 people were bitten by Massasauga rattlesnakes, the only potentially deadly snakes in Ontario. Environment Canada said the increase in bites could be attributed to two possible reasons: increased activity in hot, dry weather or a jump in the reptile's population.

**11**  
**1957:** A DC-4 chartered from Maritime Central Airways crashed near Quebec City during a thunderstorm, killing all 79 passengers and crew. It was the worst disaster in Canadian aviation history, to date. An eyewitness told of seeing a plane disappear into a thick cloud bank shortly before a thunderstorm broke over the area.

**2001:** The Edmonton, AB, weather during the World Track and Field Championships was about as perfect as could be. From August 2 to 12, the city was drenched in sun, with only 20 minutes of drizzle for the entire 10 days. Organizers and staff at Commonwealth Stadium had plans for dealing with thunderstorms, tornadoes, and the like, but never had to use them.

**2002:** A tragic accident cost 5 people their lives when a fishing boat capsized at the mouth of the Fraser River in BC. The 14-m vessel overturned 7 km offshore in clear sunny weather, in an area known for rough waters. A charter boat operator said conditions were horrendous, with 5-m waves due to outgoing tidal conditions and moderate westerly winds.

**1912:** In McDonald Hills, SK, the hail shattered shingled roofs and stovepipes. Hundreds of ducks and pelicans were battered to death by the hailstones. One man had his arm in a sling as a result of holding a team of horses during the storm. Another man reached home to find his wife unconscious and 10 children bruised by hailstones that hit indoors through an open roof.

**15**  
**1999:** Eyewitnesses spotted numerous funnel clouds west of Calgary, AB, while to the southeast, in Bassano, a weak tornado touched down. It is rare to have cold-core funnels and a tornado on the same day. Cold-core funnel clouds drop from any cloud system, whereas tornadoes appear only in thunderstorms.

**2002: Summer in Calgary, AB—heatstroke one day and frostbite the next. Two weeks after a frigid Heritage Day long weekend, and only 3 days after highs topped 30°C, the mercury did another flip-flop. Temperatures dropped to 5°C in the morning and there were snowflakes in the air. Residents in Bragg Creek, AB, woke up to 4 cm of snow.**

**17**  
**1895:** The most violent thunderstorm in memory swept over Rondeau Harbour, ON. It lasted only 10 minutes, but the winds, estimated at 150 km/h, wrought an immense amount of damage to Erican, a favourite resort. Tents were blown over, cottages were damaged, outhouses were crushed, and a boat was picked up, carried a 1/2 km, and dashed to pieces.

**18**  
**1935:** Sweltering in temperatures up to 41.6°C, more than 2,000 volunteers fought raging forest fires in the Maritimes. In New Brunswick, dozens of fires were out-of-control, and in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, fires had been raging for a week. Farmers counted heavy losses because it was so dry. Twelve people died, mostly from drownings and sunstroke.

**2000:** A sudden, violent burst of wind struck Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, AB, where the Festival Marathon was being staged. Winds destroyed at least 8 tents, knocked over numerous barrier gates, and flipped over a dozen portable toilets, spilling their contents. The force was powerful enough to move huge tents anchored down on 4 corners by 50-ka weights.

**20**  
**2001:** At Diavik Diamond Mines at Lac de Gras, NT, heavy winds and wave action washed away portions of a plastic containment barrier, designed to keep sediments from escaping the dredging site. The sediment plume flowed into Lac de Gras. Workers had erected the 4.5-km plastic curtain 2 months ago to allow fish to find their way in and out of the dredge site.

**1950:** Nova Scotia began assessing property and crop damage after a severe Atlantic gale lashed the province, accompanied by drenching rains and winds of up to 150 km/h. The Annapolis Valley sustained the heaviest damage. Experts said that of the more than one million barrels of apples yet to be picked, at least 20% are now carpeting valley orchards.

**New Moon** ●

**Discovery Day (Yukon)**

1998: A man struck by lightning at a pay phone near Trenton, ON, says he's sore, but uninjured. "I was dialing the numbers on the phone and next thing, I woke up in the hospital on a back board, all taped down, with oxygen and all that stuff." Two campers in a nearby arcade found him. "We were on the pinball machine and felt a big zap that lifted us off the ground."

22

2001: Canada's 3 largest cities faced an explosion of rats, up 40% from last year. Warm weather was to blame. Heat cuts a rat's 3-month gestation period in half. In dry weather, rats also travel more easily because they don't have to shelter from rain. In Vancouver, the rats became a tourist attraction, as visitors took pictures of them crawling up the Granville Street Bridge stanchions.

23

1992: O'Leary, PEI, was the scene of a fierce "Kansas-type cyclone." The wind, accompanied by thunder, lightning, and rain, flattened several buildings and stripped a woods of its greenery. It also picked up a man and carried him about 300 m and blew 2 unoccupied houses off their foundations. Strangely, the houses moved in opposite directions, possibly indicating 2 tornadoes.

24

2000: A fisher's \$100 fish finder discovered a shipwreck at the bottom of Lake Huron, south of Bayfield, ON. On 11 November 1913, the *Wexford*, an 82-m tramp steamer, was on Lake Huron heading south toward Goderich, ON, when it was caught by what historians call a "king of storms." It encountered 10-m waves, 100 km/h winds, driving snow, and freezing rain.

25

2001: Rescuers came to the aid of a New Brunswick man and his 10-year-old son while windsurfing off PEI. The two clung to their boards more than a kilometre from shore. Two swimmers braved the winds and strong currents and helped them to a sandbar where they were later rescued by firefighters.

26

Weather Quiz  
In general, which tornadoes are the most destructive?

27

- 1) fast-moving
- 2) slow-moving
- 3) ones that hop, skip, and jump
- 4) those that double back
- 5) zig-zaggers

(Answer on inside back cover)

2002: The gruelling 595-km Frontier Adventure Race is an "extreme" trekking, mountain biking, and canoeing competition through Yukon wilderness, in part along the Old Dawson Trail. This year, 2 days of rain created mud so thick that huge clumps stuck to participants' shoes with every step. To progress along the trail, they had to throw and pick up their bikes, a metre at a time.

28

1916: For about 90 minutes, a swirling cloud of black dust enveloped Camp Hughes in Manitoba. The headquarters' mess tent and several hospital isolation ward tents were blown down. The high Church of England marquee, erected the day before, also went down with the first big gust. For the second time this season, the big swimming pool canvas top was torn to ribbons.

29

1997: The Ontario government passed a bill allowing municipalities to use phones and mail for municipal elections. The potential for poor November weather and the need for non-resident electors to drive great distances, especially on stormy days, prompted the decision. Gravenhurst, a central Ontario town, was the first jurisdiction to use telephones for voting.

30

1961: A nearly continuous, torrential rain fell in Timmins, ON. Although it only lasted a few hours, the storm ripped up roads and inflicted considerable property damage, undercutting foundations, washing out roads, and smashing houses. Total rainfall exceeded 200 mm in 36 hours. Town Creek flooded, drowning a mother and her 4 children in a house on its banks.

31

Full Moon ○



AUGUST						
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# September 2004

OCTOBER								
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31								

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1953: Toronto, ON, was in the midst of its longest heat wave ever. Housewives escaped the kitchen by using hot plates connected to extension cords. At the Ford Motor Company in Windsor, ON, some sections of the large assembly plant shut down early, but not in the foundry. A Hamilton, ON, merchant had a cooling thought—he displayed Christmas cards in the store window. Sales were brisk.</p>	<p>1895: At Green Ridge, MB, a flash of lightning knocked out three workers stacking grain. When they regained consciousness, they found their team of horses lying dead on the wagon tongue. One man had a sore mouth, as if he had received a blow, and the others felt as if they had been clubbed.</p>	<p>1878: In Woodstock, ON, lightning struck the chimney of a house and travelled into the dining room. The shock sent a man sprawling through an open back door and stunned his wife, who was preparing dinner. The lightning demolished the furniture and tore up the flooring.</p>	<p>2002: Prairie farmers killed millions of grasshoppers during the summer, but then bits and pieces of the pests began showing up in harvested crops, leaving farmers with a commodity fit only for animal feed. Anything the same size as the insect, such as lentils, beans, and peas, had a problem with contamination.</p>
<p>1912: One of the worst lightning storms in years, featuring two hours of almost continuous lightning, crashed over Toronto and parts of southern Ontario. The freakish multi-directional lightning pattern had many admirers, but it also caused thousands to draw the window shades tight. In a farming community northeast of Toronto, lightning ignited several barn fires.</p>	<p>1979: A mini tornado ripped through at least two farms north of Athens, ON, levelling a silo, numerous trees, and rows of fences, before cutting a path through a cornfield. At one farm, a fallen apple tree crushed a brand new truck, brought home only 3 minutes before the storm hit, and an old maple tree fell, taking out a 15-year-old treehouse.</p>	<p>2002: High humidity plagued those attending the Toronto (ON) International Film Festival. Some Hollywood stars visited their hairdressers 4 times a day to prevent soft curls from spinning out of control. Even men were having bad hair days. Said one hairdresser, "All the guys ... say: make me look like I just woke up ... but cool."</p>	<p>2002: High winds in Saskatoon, SK, kept a French parachutist from attempting a jump from a large helium balloon at 40,000 metres, at the edge of space. The jump would have lasted more than 6 minutes and would have propelled him 1,500 km/h faster than the speed of sound, landing him in the record books for undertaking the highest, longest, and fastest free fall in history.</p>	<p>1874: From the diary of a NWMP constable outside Lethbridge, AB: "The weather was turning decidedly chilly, horses were dying daily, food and tempers were short ... I had a blanket taken from every officer and man last night so that each horse was covered and protected from the cold rain and wind ... If a few hours' cold rain kills off a number of horses what would be the effect of a 24-hour snowstorm?"</p>	<p>1982: A mini tornado struck inside the city of Calgary, AB. Two men were painting a garage door when the storm hit. They dove underneath the garage door, but without electricity they couldn't get the door down. The wind blew out the windows and lifted a barbecue and a one-year-old dog named Worm right over the fence.</p>	<p>1954: The remains of Hurricane Edna roared through the Maritimes with 70-km/h winds. It wreaked havoc on mainland Nova Scotia, practically wiping out the Annapolis Valley's bumper apple crop. Following Edna's passage, Halifax birders observed three species of rare birds: the yellow-billed cuckoo, red-eyed towhee, and scarlet tanager.</p>
	Labour Day	Last Quarter				
<p>2002: Gustav was the first Atlantic hurricane this year and the first to make landfall in Nova Scotia in 6 years. The hurricane caused power outages, downed trees, and flooded property. Fortunately, Gustav's storm surge arrived from 4 to 5 hours shy of high tide. Had it hit at the tide's peak, an additional 70 cm of water would have inundated the downtown core of Charlottetown, PEI.</p>	<p>1977: September snowfalls in Newfoundland are rare! Old-timers in southwestern Newfoundland couldn't remember an earlier snowfall. Not only were the Long Range Mountains covered in snow, but so was much of the Trans-Canada Highway through the Codroy Valley. The previous year the first snows fell early in October, and that was something of a record.</p>	<p>1918: About 9 minutes before a violent thunderstorm in northern Ontario, a 3-member geological survey party, camped on the Shekak River, witnessed a ball of white light shoot toward the east and downward at an angle of about 45°. No sound was heard in connection with the phenomenon, but 15 minutes later, distant lightning was seen to the northwest.</p>	<p>1964: Heavy rains in the wake of Tropical Storm Oora caused flooding in the Halifax-Dartmouth area. The most serious flooding in Halifax was in Captain's Cabin Lounge, where customers helped form a bucket brigade. In Dartmouth, NS, the 75+ mm of rain submerged vehicles in garages, washed out gardens, damaged basement furnaces, and in one home, damaged a \$20,000 antique organ.</p>	<p>1990: A 4-year-old Halifax, NS, boy helped save his mother's life after a bolt of lightning bounced through a second-storey window and shocked her while she was on the telephone. He dragged his unconscious mom down the stairs by her ankles. Her injuries included burns around her rib cage, and inside her lungs and ears. Her hair fell out in clumps following the strike.</p>	<p>1980: Eight separate sightings of waterspouts on Lake Ontario, some in groups of 2 or 3 funnels, were seen by numerous observers from Toronto, ON, to Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON. At the same time, construction workers ran for their lives just before a sudden high wind ripped down a 50-m wall in Etobicoke, ON. Falling concrete blocks crushed a worker's helmet.</p>	<p>2001: Saskatchewan farmers started burning stubble to prepare for spring seeding, a practice that can create a haze of smoke and, with certain winds, be very trying for those suffering from asthma and other respiratory ailments. Farmers are asked to limit burning activities to afternoons when smoke is better dispersed and fires can be monitored.</p>
		New Moon		Rosh Hashanah Begins		

**1846:** A terrific hurricane that struck Newfoundland on this date is known as the Great Gale of 1846. There was enormous loss of life and extensive property loss. At Bay Bulls near St. John's, the storm loosened a boulder, which rolled down a cliff, killing 2 boys. It also damaged the lighthouse at Cape Spear. One of the buildings seemed to explode in the hurricane.

19

**1869:** Lightning struck a home in Pleasant Valley, NS. When firefighters cleared away the debris, they found the remains of a couple in their bed, lying side by side, their limbs and the tops of their heads nearly burned off. Splinters from some boards were found scattered at a distance from the building.

20

**1999:** Rainfall over a 2- to 3-day period exceeded the 1-in-100-years return period in parts of the Maritimes. A storm from Quebec merged with the remains of Tropical Storm Harvey southwest of Nova Scotia. Rising waters flooded streets in Moncton, NB, Amherst, NS, and Shelburne, NS, caused washouts on highway bridges, and for a time closed all roads leading south from Moncton.

21

First Quarter ☾

**1984:** Thick fog blanketed Ste-Madeleine, PQ, resulting in reduced visibility that contributed to massive traffic accidents on the Trans-Canada Highway. At least 8 people were injured, one fatally. At this time of year, morning fog rises from the Rivière des Hurons in an area local residents call "The Hole."

22

Autumn Equinox 12:30 EDT

**2001:** Rain finally fell in southern Ontario, after weeks of record dry weather. In the Grand River Basin area, the Eramosa River had its lowest flows on record, continuing a recurrent 5-year pattern: excessively high temperatures and moisture deficits. The drought rivalled the worst times in the 1930s and 1960s. Officials urged water conservation.

23

**2001:** Alberta was in the midst of a heat wave as warm winds pushed north from the American desert. Seven provincial records were broken, including an unbelievable 35.7°C in Lethbridge, smashing its record of 30.6°C. Said one dog groomer, "... some animals and pets may have already grown their winter fur—as soon as this warm weather comes in, they blow (shed) their coats."

24

**1798:** A hurricane came ashore near Halifax harbour, NS, disabling a dozen watercraft, including an American brig and a British trigate. The storm created huge tree blowdowns, submerged wharves, flooded roads, and washed away schooners. Potatoes, trees, and other vegetation were blackened as it there was a great frost, but experts attributed this to the salt in the air.

25

Yom Kippur

**2002:** More than 49 vehicles, including 7 tractor-trailers, were involved in a massive pileup east of Montreal, PQ, that killed 1 and injured 17. The early morning mishap was caused by a combination of fog and blinding sunshine. At this time of year, cooler night temperatures combine with moisture from the river, resulting in thick, soupy clouds that obscure everything.

26

**1985:** Ahead of Hurricane Gloria, officials pulled boats from the water, and evacuated a crew from an oil rig off Nova Scotia. Long Island Medical Center, NY, noted an increase in the number of babies born during the storm. A hospital spokesman said: "When you get low barometric pressure like this, it produces a situation that triggers the beginning of labour."

27

**2002:** Fog was so thick in southern Manitoba along the Perimeter Highway, one driver said it was like driving through cotton batting. Another person said you couldn't see the hand in front of your face, although a few minutes earlier you could still see the stars. Screeches and banging were heard everywhere as vehicles collided with one another for 15 minutes.

28

Full Moon ☾

**Weather Quiz**  
What is the only Hurricane name to be retired twice?

29

- 1) Mitch
- 2) Luis
- 3) Hugo
- 4) Camille
- 5) Hazel

(Answer on inside back cover)

**2001:** Manitoba Autopac confronted several claimants who insisted that last month's nickel-to-quarter-sized hailstones dented their cars. After a 10-minute inspection, estimators decided that some of the 8,000 claims were bogus—the damage could have been caused by a hammer or golf balls in a sock. Some could face criminal charges for filing fraudulent claims.

30

SEPTEMBER													
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# October 2004

NOVEMBER													
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>2001: It was raining and minimum temperatures were near freezing, so police were suspicious when they saw a man just wearing shorts running in downtown Calgary, AB. As it turned out, the man was a gun-toting bandit who robbed a city bank and then stripped down, discarding his long-sleeved shirt, baggy jeans, and balaclava.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1999: Despite near-freezing temperatures, the Highlands Golf Club in Edmonton, AB, held its anti-freeze celebration with 70 golfers. Most participants bundled up in toques, mittens, winter coats, and long underwear to get through the game. Said one golf devotee, "Weather doesn't stop a real golfer." Some gave up, though, when the white stuff got too deep.</p> <p>2</p>
<p>1959: Yarmouth, NS, began cleaning up after Hurricane Gracie dumped 173 mm of rain in less than 12 hours and pummelled the region with powerful winds. Public works and water department employees were out in force to keep catch basins running free. Rushing water lifted heavy concrete manhole covers, filled hundreds of cellars, and damaged many unpaved streets.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>2002: Queen Elizabeth II arrived in Iqaluit, NU, for the start of her Golden Jubilee tour of Canada. Large crowds welcomed the royal couple in sub-freezing temperatures and snow flurries.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2002: Millions of tiny spiders spun a thick, 24-hectare web near McBride, BC. You had to use a hunting knife to cut pieces of web away from fence posts. A biologist speculated that abundant rain and light winds had prevented the spiders from dispersing. They laid eggs, producing more spiders that laid eggs, and so on. Also, the adults didn't die, but kept on reproducing.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1986: A line of heavy thunderstorms tracked across Nova Scotia, producing strong winds, heavy rain, and hail. A possible tornado or waterspout, lasting 2 minutes, struck the community of Dublin Shore in Lunenburg County, uprooting trees and breaking windows. The wind lifted a 5-m boat 30 m into the air and sent it spinning 300 m out into the harbour.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>2002: Bay of Fundy (NS, NB) residents feared that Hurricane Kyle would be the second coming of the infamous Saxby Gale, a destructive storm in 1869. Fortunately, Kyle never reached the coast and was dubbed the "Saxby Fall." However, schools practised mock disaster drills, people took out insurance riders, and a fish packing company suspended fishing trips for a week, just in case.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>2002: The Queen stopped in Winnipeg, MB, on her Golden Jubilee tour, where the cool and blustery weather sparked great interest, especially back home. In the afternoon, the temperature hovered close to freezing and strong winds blew at 35 km/h, gusting to 50 km/h. On the Red River, the water taxi carrying the Royal Couple stalled and had to be towed to shore.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1997: Alberta's top court refused to overturn a lower court decision in the case of a southern Alberta man whacking his neighbour with a 2-by-4 during a dispute over how the victim was clearing and banking snow from his driveway. The lower court had ordered the man to pay his neighbour \$45,000.</p> <p>9</p>
<p>1885: Prolonged stormy weather known as the Great Labrador Gale featured bitterly cold temperatures, snow, hurricane-force winds, and a monster surge. Coming at the height of spring tides, the water reached unprecedented levels. High seas drove vessels ashore and smashed buildings in every harbour. Ship crews threw fish overboard to take on shipwrecked fishers.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1949: A wild storm, featuring a record October rainfall of more than 75 mm in 24 hours and the lowest barometric pressure in Winnipeg's history, lashed southern Manitoba. Scores of duck hunters were still marooned in the interlake district on Tuesday. With city utilities down, hospital services were performed by flashlight. Gusts of wind set off countless burglar alarms.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>2002: Organizers of the 2003 Canada Winter Games in northern New Brunswick hoped for a cold, snowy winter, as the government had decided not to install snowmaking facilities in the Campbellton area. Although the hosts worried there wouldn't be enough snow, history supported the decision, since only once in 50 years did the Miramichi not have snowcover early in March.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>2002: The police shut down stretches of the Trans-Canada Highway from Kenora to Dryden, in Ontario, after bad weather caused several truck drivers to lose control of their rigs. Snow and slick road conditions caused 20 tractor-trailers to jackknife. Some of the vehicles crashed into rock cuts and other vehicles. In one accident, paint spilled across the highway.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>2000: Five trucks collided in heavy morning fog on the Trans-Canada Highway near Medicine Hat, AB. Rescue efforts were hampered because of the fog, and traffic backed up behind the collision. Shortly after the crash, crude oil leaking from one of the tankers ignited, and a massive explosion sent flames 25 m into the air, melting the asphalt on the highway.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1930: Bad weather caused the cancellation of a second race between a Gloucester fishing schooner and <i>Bluenose</i>, the Nova Scotia champion. The <i>Bluenose</i> was leading at the 30-m marker by 3 km, and they had nearly completed the first half of the course. Rain, wind, a smothering fog, and sea spume hid the boats for most of the race.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>2001: Rescuers struggled through heavy, blowing snow and thick fog to reach 3 survivors of an airplane crash near Fort Liard, NT. The tated twin-engine Piper Chieftain left Yellowknife, NT, with a group that was formalizing a deal between Aboriginal groups and natural gas producers to build a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley.</p> <p>16</p>
	Thanksgiving		New Moon		Ramadan Begins	

# Weather Quiz

What sound do snowflakes make when they land on water?

- 1) none
- 2) puff
- 3) ping
- 4) scream
- 5) pop

(Answer on inside back cover)

1911: A snow slide killed a husband and his wife and demolished their home west of Lake Atlin, YT.

1951: This Halloween the only prankster in Whitehorse, YT, was an 80 km/h wind that broke windows and lifted roofs.

31 Halloween Daylight Saving Time Ends

1892: During a severe storm with terrific thunder and lightning, a man from Green Lake, ON, told his two daughters to stay inside while he tended to the sheep. As he drove the sheep into the yard, lightning struck and killed him instantly. No trace of the deadly electricity was visible on his body, except for his singed head and a small hole in his hat.

2001: A short, violent microburst peeled open the roof of the largest hotel in Pembroke, ON, and bent flagpoles nearly to the ground. Winds scattered pink insulation in a wide spray around the building. The front doors blew open as torrential rains poured in. Astonishingly, the winds picked up a pickup truck and shifted it by one parking spot, jamming nails into the fender.

1988: Stalled, abandoned cars, trapped in waters more than a metre deep, were a common sight in northern Nova Scotia after a record rainfall of 102 mm in 24 hours. In a mall parking lot, water reached the hoods of cars. A North River resident lost 40 cords of split wood, and floodwaters washed away soft road shoulders, causing asphalt to crack.

2000: Warm, moist air moving across relatively cool ground generated thick fog overnight, making driving hazardous across southern Ontario. Welland Canal traffic controllers closed the canal for 6 hours, delaying 7 ships in the canal.

2002: Rescuers reached a group of high school students the day after they spent a cold, dank night inside Ptolemy Mountain, on the Alberta/British Columbia border. The young explorers planned to exit beneath a waterfall, but found it sealed off by ice. When they failed to make a rendezvous, 3 other students and a teacher raised the alarm.

1854: Canada's first major rail disaster occurred in pre-dawn fog at Chatham, ON. A late express struck a freight train, killing 52 and seriously injuring 48 others.

First Quarter ☾

Full Moon ☾

2002: Strong winds blew a duck hunter's boat into a near-shore bog on a lake in St. John's, NF. Stepping out of the boat, the hunter sank up to his chest in mud. His emergency whistle went unheard in the wind, and in the bad weather, search beams had a hard time picking him out. He was eventually rescued and suffered little more than a sore throat, stiff muscles, and hurt pride.

2000: Residents of Edmonton, AB, woke up under a thick blanket of freezing fog—a rare weather phenomenon caused by cold air and a massive temperature inversion. The inversion not only created fog that lingered through the day, but it also trapped pollutants that made the air smell smoky. Smoke sources were fireplaces, low-level industrial pollutants, and burning stubble.

2001: Winds of up to 100 km/h buffeted across much of coastal British Columbia. The storm toppled trees onto power lines and left hundreds without electricity for several hours. Some circuits went out again after being repaired. Power outages affected several traffic signals. Parks board officials closed Stanley Park after 100-km/h winds knocked down 25 trees.

1963: Hurricane Ginny zigzagged across the Maritimes with wind gusts up to 160 km/h. The storm sent ships scurrying for shelter and halted most ferry and air traffic. Motor vehicle traffic on the Reversing Falls Bridge in Saint John, NB, was reduced when the bridge began to sway in heavy gusts. Yet sun shone in the dead calm of the eye of the hurricane.

1963: The remains of Typhoon Lola generated high winds off the northern BC coast. The maximum winds of 130 km/h occurred at Cape St. James. Hardest hit was Prince George, where winds exceeded 112 km/h. The storm cut power off for several hours and damaged a number of private aircraft. Some telephone lines came down, interrupting service.

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

## OCTOBER

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## November 2004

## DECEMBER

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

**2000:** Joe Clark's election campaign bus rolled up to the Confederation Bridge in PEI, where he had hoped to use the picturesque span to drive home his message of a united Canada. But alas no bridge was in sight. It was so shrouded in fog and rain that Clark had to settle for a photo opportunity in front of a picture of the bridge in the adjacent tourism centre.

1

**2002:** Cool weather in BC's Lower Mainland brings out the car thieves. Many residents start their cars and then leave them running while they go back inside to keep warm—an offense that carries a maximum \$85 fine. One-third of car thefts in Surrey, BC, the auto theft capital of North America, result from such incidents.

2

**1867:** A couple narrowly escaped being crushed in their bed when their chimney fell down during a windstorm and crashed through the roof. The woman had gone upstairs before her husband, intending to go to bed, but then returned downstairs when she discovered she had forgotten something. It was while she was downstairs that the accident occurred.

3

**2000:** A wintry blast hit southern Alberta, wreaking chaos on the roads and causing several injuries. RCMP closed Highway 2 between Airdrie and Red Deer for several hours. Some snowdrifts were a metre or more high. One man was hurt when an 80-km/h gust of wind blew out an entire metal-framed window from 2 storeys up.

4

**1938:** Never before at the Ottawa (ON) Central Experimental Farm had the thermometer climbed to 21.7°C in November. Flowers bloomed for the second time this year, and families picnicked on the banks of the canal. Golfers also took advantage of the summerlike weather.

5

**2002:** Coast guards in Canada and the US responded to a call from a 16-metre sailboat, stricken in heavy seas about 32 km west of Cape Beale, BC. The boat, worth \$300,000, had been stolen from the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. The modern-day pirates might have gotten away if they hadn't sent out a distress signal requesting a tow into quieter waters.

6

Last Quarter ☾

**2002:** Dutch TV filmed their version of the reality series *The Mole* in New Brunswick. The show's promoters were happy about an early blast of winter because snow added drama to the rugged cliffs and rapids of the Reversing Falls Gorge. In this episode, the 10 contestants had to swing pendulum-style into the gorge, but high winds forced postponement of the filming.

7

**1870:** In 1868, more than 300 sailors lost their lives in storms on the Great Lakes, prompting a plea for a storm warning system. As a result, one of the first storm warnings in North America was issued by the U.S. Signal Corps weather service for the Great Lakes area, by Professor Increase Latham of Milwaukee. The forecast was sent by telegraph to cities along the Great Lakes.

8

**1990:** Torrential rains combined with melting snow caused the Salmon and White Rivers to flood the town of Sayward on Vancouver Island, BC. The waters uprooted huge trees and swamped a bridge. In Port Alice, mud covered a road leading to the pulp mill, closing it down and putting 300 men out of work. The flood also tore up valuable spawning beds in the Chilliwack River.

9

**Weather Quiz**  
Without an atmosphere, what would the average temperature of the planet be?

10

- 1) Winnipeg's average January temperature (-18.3°C)
  - 2) Vancouver's average July temperature (17.2°C)
  - 3) Toronto's average annual temperature (7.2°C)
  - 4) Halifax's average January temperature (-5.8°C)
  - 5) North Pole's average July temperature (3.4°C)
- (Answer on inside back cover)

**1989:** In Yukon, November began with mild weather and scant snow, frustrating a British film crew in search of winter scenery. In the second week, however, temperatures dropped, reaching a record low of -52°C at Ross River and -47°C at Dawson. It was so cold that propane gas turned to gel.

11

Remembrance Day

**1933:** The biggest dust storm in years swept across North America. From Montana and Saskatchewan to Lake Superior and halfway to the Gulf of Mexico, the air was dark with dust. A microscopic examination of the dust found it to consist of organic matter, including spores, plant hairs, diatoms, and plant and animal fragments typical of pond sediment.

12

New Moon ●

**1996:** A young deer hunter suffered extreme frostbite after spending 2 nights lost in dense bush in Manitoba. The temperatures dropped to -25°C. An RCMP tracking dog found him lying in the snow, chilled, disoriented, and in pain. The young man had stumbled through about 20 km of bush and bog, and it was unlikely that he could have survived another night.

13

**1925:** The newspapers described it as a "storm king." In Quebec City, PQ, fierce winds tore off building roofs, overturned horse-drawn vehicles, and tied up navigation on the St. Lawrence River. Panic broke out among 700 children in the St. Malo Sister's convent when the school's roof blew off. Winds also lifted the roof of the local police station.

14

**1896:** In Lethbridge, AB, the first real snowstorm of the season started and continued for 2 days. In total, the storm dumped more than 50 cm of snow, but the snow was light and was good neither for sleighing nor wheeling. Travel was very slow and hard on teams; the Macleod stage took 5 hours to come a distance of 25 km.

15

**1927:** Two Michigan men spent 3 nights on Lake St. Clair, ON, in a small launch without food and clad only in their underwear. They were unable to navigate their boat in the heavy winds and drifted aimlessly because their light anchor failed to hold in the sandy bottom. They burned their life preservers to attract notice, and it worked—two Wallaceburg duck hunters saw them.

16

**1927:** A record daily November rainfall of 84.3 mm at the McGill Observatory still stands as the wettest November day in Montreal, PQ. The rain swept away many rainfall records as it washed over city sidewalks and flooded open spaces. At Zephirin in the Eastern Townships, floods washed out 10 bridges. Landslides of sand and clay blocked roads.

17

**2002:** Although the night started out perfectly clear, stargazers in eastern Canada were disappointed by the gauzy view of the Leonid meteor storm through dense cloud. Experts had predicted a spectacular show, with as many as 20 to 30 shooting stars per minute. Saskatchewan was the best viewing place because of clear skies at the storm's peak.

18

**2002:** The first crop of broccoli in PEI was good, but the last one was a big disappointment because it didn't mature enough when Indian summer failed to materialize. Hectares and hectares of broccoli rotted in the fields, since many growers didn't even bother with the harvest.

19

**1891:** Two boys from Medicine Hat, AB, succumbed to a blizzard while looking for lost cattle. The storm was so sudden and so severe that they were unable to find their way home. Search parties organized the following morning found one boy about 25 km from home, frozen to death beside a haystack, his horse eating hay over his dead body.

20

First Quarter ☾

**1770:** From the Hudson Bay Records at Prince of Wales Fort: "The wind blew hard, and the snow drifted so excessively thick, that we could not see ten yards before us the whole day. Between seven and eight in the evening my dog, a valuable brute, was frozen to death; so that his sledge, which was very heavy one, I was obliged to haul ..."

21

**2002:** Wet weather and freezing temperatures overnight combined to turn parts of Winnipeg, MB, into a giant skating rink. The slippery conditions spelled chaos for pedestrians and motorists, resulting in broken bones, sprains, and crumpled fenders. People with steep driveways woke up to find their cars out on the street. Residents of retirement homes were told to stay indoors.

22

**1972:** Eastern Newfoundland dug out from the season's first major snowstorm. With winds gusting to 100 km/h, the storm played havoc with transportation and caused numerous power outages. At least one major taxi company took its cars off the streets for most of the day. The next day, snow piles vanished in melting temperatures, turning streets into canals.

23

**2002:** Winds over 100 km/h buffeted Nova Scotia, downing power lines and, for the first time in recent memory, postponing the opening of Atlantic Canada's richest lobster fishery for 24 hours. A 4-man crew from Chester, on its way to Bermuda, was caught south of Sable Island in 12-metre seas. After three days, the sloop lost its sails and engine, and the crew abandoned ship.

24

**1912:** The season's first snowstorm swept into Ottawa, ON, with unusual severity. The 53.3 cm of wet, sticky snow, still the city's second greatest one-day snowfall ever, overwhelmed electric sweepers and the street railway system. A continuous line of people walked to work along Albert Street, already an hour late and wondering what would be said when they "signed the book."

25

**1955:** Thunder Bay, ON, newspapers called it the worst snowstorm in years—38 cm in 24 hours. Windblown snow buried vehicles, trapping people inside. Trolleys and buses ground to a halt, and queues formed at every available downtown phone. Snowshoes, skis, and snowmobiles appeared, but many residents returned home on foot. Hundreds of rural youngsters were city bound for the night.

26

**2002:** Shifting ice in Lake Manitoba ripped out several thousand fishing nets, at a loss of \$1 million. The ice was 20 cm thick. A warm southerly wind pushed ice away from the shore, only to return the next day from the northwest, moving the ice back. As a result, nets hunched up and ripped apart. Lack of snow exacerbated the situation because snow holds ice close to shore.

27

Full Moon 

**1909:** Rain had been falling in Vancouver, BC, for a week. Then it started coming down in torrents—170 mm in 2 days—the heaviest drenching in memory. Throughout British Columbia, washouts and mudslides affected both road and rail traffic. Kilby Creek, normally a gently flowing stream, swelled its banks, tearing out tree stumps and undermining boulders.

28

**1996:** Mixed signals: "I think it's going to be a mild winter," said Albert Prairie Chicken, a Peigan elder in southern Alberta. "The gophers are out late, the birds have stayed late, and the leaves fell off the trees late." From a rancher, west of Cochrane: "The talk is it's going to be a bad one. Horses have really haired up. And the coyotes, too." In the end, it was a cold winter!

29

**2002:** Warm weather in Yukon played havoc with trappers' travel. The lakes were covered with melt water, and with just a little snow in the bush, travelling by snowmachine was tough on the equipment. Further, winter airstrips in front of cabins were 2 or 3 weeks behind in construction. Warm weather also delayed growth of the prime winter furs that trappers covet.

30

## NOVEMBER

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## December 2004

## JANUARY

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			<p><b>1912:</b> In what was described as a dispute over hauling coal, an attempt to blow up the Trent River Bridge near Nanaimo, BC, failed due to cold weather. Someone planted 25 sticks of dynamite under the bridge and attached them to a 50-metre fuse. The dynamite, which must have frozen by the time the lighted fuse reached the cap, burned up instead of exploding.</p>	<p><b>1997:</b> For the second time in less than a week, a snowstorm pounded the Maritimes with wind and snow. It is unusual to have 2 major winter storms so early in the season. On PEI, authorities closed schools in outlying districts, and politicians cancelled the evening sitting of the legislature. The storms twice closed the new Cobequid Pass toll highway near Amherst, NS.</p>	<p><b>1974:</b> Owners of shoreline property in Miramichi, NB, assessed the heavy damage incurred by unusually high and devastating tides in Chaleur Bay. Described as the worst storm in memory, the heavy sea swept away summer cottages, winterized dwellings, and breakwaters. The tides also swept sand up from the beach, past cottages, and onto the road, to a depth of 1 m.</p>	<p><b>1902:</b> Firefighters in Dawson, YT, fought a downtown fire at the Empire Hotel on one of the coldest days ever, at -45°C. The fire's heat and the excitement of fighting helped to keep workers' body temperatures warm, though nose tips froze. In the bitter cold, fire hoses froze in 2 hours, even with water flowing at full pressure. Under no pressure, the water froze in minutes.</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>
<p><b>1990:</b> At the Charlottetown Driving Park (PEI), winds gusting to 90 km/h ripped off the south corner of the recently renovated grandstand, and driving rain (45 mm over 2 days) flooded the inside.</p>	<p><b>2002:</b> Police in Winnipeg, MB, reported that a man who exposed himself to 16 women in the East Kildonan area over the past year hasn't been seen since Halloween. They suspect the flasher might have been scared inside by the frigid temperatures.</p>	<p><b>2002:</b> A 71-year-old Manitoba woman driving to work at 2 a.m. skidded on a gravel road and rolled about 16 m down the embankment. The car came to rest upside down among trees, pinning the woman inside. The temperature at the time was -23°C. It was 7 hours before she was rescued, frostbitten and sore, but not seriously injured.</p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>Residents of which province(s) feel that hazardous weather does not pose a risk where they live?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Quebec</li> <li>2) Saskatchewan/Manitoba</li> <li>3) Alberta</li> <li>4) Ontario</li> <li>5) Atlantic Canada</li> </ol> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p>Chanukah Begins</p>	<p><b>1939:</b> The Grey Cup was played in Ottawa, ON, before 13,000 fans, the largest crowd ever to see a football game in the city. The weather was poor, and the field, rock-hard. Cold temperatures, snow, and dampness made the ball slippery and hard to handle by hands that were chilled and numbed; many players used basketball sneakers instead of cleats to improve their footing.</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> For the first time in nearly 3 years, Calgary AB, saw temperatures dip below -30°C. High Level, AB, boasted the province's lowest temperature at -40.3°C, just shy of a record. Ice fog wrapped Edmonton in a haze for days. The cold caused fires and set off false alarms. Firefighters found it difficult to cope; water and condensation caused their clothing to ice up.</p>	<p><b>2000:</b> The Environment Canada weather web site received an all-time 24-hour record number of 2,291,681 hits, or an average of 26 per second—the highest number of hits ever for a Government of Canada site. The record rate was attributed to a major snowstorm that dumped piles of snow over Ontario and Quebec.</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>
<p><b>2000:</b> Toronto, ON, experienced a winter thunderstorm (thundersnow) around 2 a.m. A squall passed over the city, triggering sky blue lightning, numerous double strikes, and thunder. The thunder went on for much longer than warm season thunder and featured a rolling sound that lasted from 10 to 15 seconds. Eventually, blowing snow reduced visibility to about 1 block.</p>	<p><b>1991:</b> An American dog team expedition set out from Prudhoe Bay, AL, for Churchill, MB, on 23 October. About half of the 36 dogs survived the harrowing trek along the Beaufort Sea coast, with wind chills dipping to -65°C. The other half died of exposure or starvation. The RCMP said that the animals' deaths were the result of bad luck, poor planning, and cold weather.</p>	<p><b>2001:</b> The first winter storm of the season dropped up to 10 cm of snow across southern Ontario, causing drivers to slip, slide, and slam. The foul weather stretched emergency crews to their limits, trying to respond to calls. One policeman in Kitchener-Waterloo said it was like driving in Vaseline. In the Ottawa area, 9 cm of snow fell, causing more than 80 accidents.</p>	<p><b>2002:</b> A series of intense Pacific storms, curving northward to the Gulf of Alaska, began pummeling the west coast with extreme winds and rain. One storm packed winds in excess of 100 km/h at Point Atkinson. Even stronger winds blew on the outer coast of Vancouver Island, prompting forecasters to issue a rare warning of hurricane-force winds in the Strait of Georgia.</p>	<p><b>1921:</b> Rain and freezing rain began falling across southern Ontario and continued for 3 days. In Hamilton, a shining coat of ice and snow plastered nearly every building, fence, and tree. The storm took out phone and power lines in numerous areas across the province.</p>	<p><b>1997:</b> Retailers across southern Canada said Christmas lights and spare bulbs were flying off the shelves. One retailer commented, "I think it's the weather. It's been such a nice year to be outside, it's not a hassle to put up lights." The general manager of the Canadian Tire store in Kamloops, BC, said he had sold about 4,000 light sets since October.</p>	<p><b>1837:</b> A nasty storm drove a ship carrying a cargo of granite from Windsor, NS, ashore on Mud Island, NS. Six crew members and a lady passenger drowned and were buried on the rugged headland. About 30 years later, someone with a morbid curiosity dug into the grave of the lady passenger. Except for the head, her corpse had been perfectly petrified into a mass of stone.</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>

**1998:** A 78-year-old woman from Winnipeg, MB, stepped outside for a cigarette on her 16th-floor apartment balcony. After the door locked behind her, she froze to death. She wasn't wearing a jacket. Temperatures dropped from -6°C to -18°C, 15 cm of snow fell during the day, and strong winds blew from the north. The balcony was too high for anyone to hear her cries.

19

**2002:** In northern Ontario, patches of black ice on highways just west of Fort Frances led to several accidents, including one involving provincial NDP leader Howard Hampton. His car spun around before sliding backwards into a ditch. On his way to Toronto, Hampton finally arrived at Queen's Park 2 hours after his scheduled press conference.

20

**1996:** Bitter cold weather prevailed across western Canada. City taxis were busy hauling residents whose cars wouldn't start or who simply didn't want to trek across the icy landscape. In Edmonton, AB, fire trucks at the scene of a blaze had to be moved so the pumper wouldn't freeze to the road in the -33°C temperatures.

21

**2002:** The Surfing Santa set sail from Fort Erie, ON, on a windsurfing jaunt in the Niagara River that landed him in the arms of US border guards when wind and waves pushed him off course. The adventurer, who performs the stunt in support of the homeless, was returned to Canada after he signed a form stating he had entered the US illegally.

22

**1893:** A bizarre happening, with no apparent explanation, occurred when the ice in the East River in PEI was ripped up for about 200 m, and large pieces were thrown a considerable distance in the air. Several people and a team of horses had just been standing on the spot. That was the second eruption of this type in 5 years.

23

**1934:** A snowstorm may have led to one of the worst rail disasters in Canadian history. A special train from London, ON, waited on a siding at Dundas. Just then, the Maple Leaf, enroute from Detroit, MI, to Toronto, ON, roared through. A brakeman threw the wrong switch and the Maple Leaf plowed into the waiting train. Fifteen were killed, and many more injured.

24

**1872:** Although temperatures plunged to -20.6°C in Nova Scotia on Christmas day, church services were well attended. The sleighing was good, but runaway horses caused several accidents, smashing sleighs and injuring man and beast alike. A heavy snowstorm in western Nova Scotia blocked most of the highways. Unusual for this time of year, the Pictou harbour froze over.

25

Christmas Day

**2002:** A Boxing Day blizzard created grief for holidayers and shoppers across the Maritimes, though most people seemed content to hunker down at home and wait out the storm. Strong winds caused blowing snow and reduced visibility. However, in Halifax, snow and icy roads didn't keep fans away from the opening game of the World Junior Hockey Tournament.

26

**2002:** Blinding snow led to a series of fatal driving accidents on the Trans-Canada Highway in the BC interior. Dozens of cars were driven off the Coquihalla Highway into side ditches. Police blamed the accidents on poor visibility, snow falling faster than it could be cleared, and driver fatigue from the holidays.

27

**1955:** Haines Junction, YT, experienced its worst windstorm ever. The wind, clocking speeds of over 130 km/h, broke windows and blew down signs, trees, telephone lines, and hydro poles. It stripped two buildings of their roofs at Destruction Bay, and also stripped bare the fields at the Experimental Farm. When the skies cleared, the mountains were blown clear of snow.

28

**1933:** Eastern Canada was in the throes of a brutal cold snap. Fourteen Ontario sites recorded their coldest-ever temperatures, and 2 others, their coldest this century. Hornepayne set an all-time record of -52.2°C during the week. In Ottawa, no fewer than 2,500 calls were made to authorities about frozen water pipes, and 120 fire hydrants had to be thawed.

29

**1986:** Bay of Fundy property owners were still assessing losses from a major windstorm at high tide, which was much higher than usual because of a rare alignment of the earth, sun, and moon. At Evangeline Beach, NB, several stairs to the shoreline were damaged or washed away. Debris thrown up by wave action acted as "battering rams" against breakwaters and cottages.

30

**2001:** Summerside, PEI, hosted its New Year's bash for 2,000 under a full moon, in temperatures of -7°C. Although it had tried to assemble the most kissing couples in one location for a place in *Guinness World Records* at previous New Year's parties, this year's event was postponed to 1 July. Many were worried about lips sticking from kissing in cold weather.

31

New Year's Eve

Boxing Day

Full Moon





# WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| January   | 3) Iran   |
| February  | 2) Warton   |
| March     | 4) Calgary  |
| April     | 3) March  |
| May       | 5) sunny weather                                    |
| June      | 4) being out in an open field                       |
| July      | 5) probabilities                                    |
| August    | 2) slow-moving                                      |
| September | 5) Hazel  |
| October   | 4) scream   |
| November  | 1) Winnipeg's average January temperature (-18.3°C) |
| December  | 1) Quebec   |