

DECEMBER

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January 2005

FEBRUARY

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Saturday

						<p>2004: A fire in downtown Moose Jaw, SK, damaged one of the city's biggest tourist attractions, the Tunnels of Moose Jaw, where the ghosts of gangsters like Al Capone are still said to roam. Firefighters battled the city's worst blaze in 28 years at temperatures of -20°C, in strong winds and intermittent snow. No one died, but several firefighters were overcome by the frigid weather.</p> <p>New Year's Day Perihelion 20:00 EST</p>
<p>2003: Repair crews in Vancouver, BC, picked through the twisted wreckage of two towering mechanical shiploaders toppled by a wind storm that battered the Pacific coast with gusts of more than 100 km/h. The wind speed more than doubled in less than 15 seconds. The accident injured two workers and caused power outages for as many as 80,000 customers.</p>	<p>2004: Across Ontario and Quebec, temperatures shot up to an unseasonably balmy 12.3°C. What was to be the last mild day in eight weeks brought many outdoors. There were more golfers than skiers in action, and joggers abounded. Others enjoyed in-line skating, outdoor basketball games, slurping ice cream cones, and drinking beer on front steps.</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1981: Commuters called it the crush hour. Thousands of jam-packed subway passengers in Toronto, ON, were stuck in trains for an hour or more during the morning's rush hour because two trains froze in their tracks. At Toronto Pearson International Airport the mercury fell to -31.3°C, the lowest temperature there since records began 44 years ago. At least 16 fainted in the crush.</p>	<p>2004: It was a snowy mess across Vancouver, with 5 to 15 cm of snow on the ground. Most BC coastal municipalities reported a road salt shortage. They had been going through salt supplies at a faster pace than usual, due to chillier weather. The reserves were gone and it would be late January before more arrived by barge from the US, Mexico, and Chile.</p>	<p>2003: Owing to global warming, several communities in Nunavut began installing artificial ice for hockey. Hockey season used to run from September until May in the 1970s but rarely begins before Christmas now and ends in March. On average winter temperatures in the western Arctic have warmed by up to 4 degrees in the past 50 years. Sustained temperatures of -20°C are needed to make natural ice.</p>	<p>1947: In BC's Lower Mainland, dense fog conspired with icy streets to bedevil traffic, causing one fatal accident and injuries to at least five other persons. A cyclist died instantly when his bicycle met a truck head-on in the fog. Although Fraser Valley roads were dangerous for light cars without chains, most school buses ran.</p>	<p>2004: Brutally cold weather gripped Eastern Canada. In Toronto, ON, temperatures dipped to -23°C. Toronto's customer hotline received more than 900 calls from residents complaining about frozen water pipes or having no water. In St. John's, NL, firefighters had to de-ice the fire trucks. Veterinarians were seeing felines coming in with frostbitten ears where they have no fur.</p>
<p>2004: Apparently, it was too cold to deliver the mail, either on foot or by delivery van, according to 10 letter carriers in Hull, QC, who are facing possible disciplinary action from Canada Post. Workers claimed they were exercising their contractual right to refuse work if they feel their health or safety is jeopardized.</p>	<p>1899: A 75-year-old man froze to death near Brantford, ON. Found in the centre of a large snowdrift, it was evident from the trampled snow that he had fought hard for life. He had crawled for some distance on his hands and knees before his fingers froze and burst. He then covered himself with some extra clothes he was carrying and lay down for what proved to be his last sleep.</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1938: A Cree trapper living on Ghost River, DN, was alone on his trapline when a tree fell on him, breaking one foot. The temperature was -37°C. When his family reached him two days later, he was pinned by the tree and had cut his foot off with an ax, but blood-poisoning had set in. His sons snowshoed to Albany for help, reaching settlement 7 days later.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz What is the mildest city ever to be awarded the Winter Olympic Games? 1) Lake Placid 2) Calgary 3) Sarajevo 4) Vancouver 5) Salt Lake City (Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>1918: Many pheasants roamed tail-less in BC's Lower Mainland as a result of a recent ice storm and frost. The storm brought down the roof of a Chilliwack, BC, breeding facility, freeing about 85 pheasants. Their tails froze to the ice on the ground and they were only able to escape certain starvation by tugging away from their plumage. Their tails, however, grew back.</p>	<p>2004: Snow rollers, a rare weather phenomenon, were seen near Kingston, ON. They were perfect, resembling rolls of light cotton batting about the size of small barrels, with hollowed-out ends and a lengthwise hole through the middle. Ideal weather for snow roller formation is a layer of new snow, just above freezing temperatures, and strong winds to pick up snow and start it somersaulting.</p>	<p>2004: Criminals stalked affluent Toronto, ON, neighbourhoods before 9 AM to find high-priced vehicles that had been left idling. Exhaust fumes from idling cars are like smoke signals to car thieves. A lot of car owners were starting their vehicles to warm them and then going back inside to wait. The thieves either took unlocked cars or broke into houses to get the keys.</p>

2004: Snow sculptures featuring close-up views of male and female anatomy angered some residents in an area of north London, ON, heavily populated by university students. The display featured anatomically correct snowmen that were 2 m high. (Things would have been bigger but there wasn't enough snow.) University housing officials promised to visit the offending students.

16

2004: A small plane crashed immediately after take-off from Pelee Island. Weather conditions were poor with freezing drizzle, snow, and low visibility hampering search efforts. The impact killed all 10 people aboard. Divers, who spent the following week searching the water among shifting ice floes, were at risk from sudden wind shifts that could cover their entry holes with ice.

17

1958: Two RCMP officers rescued four people in Chesterfield, NU, following a plane crash in bone-chilling -37° weather. The officers first saw the plane go overhead and then 15 minutes later happened on the downed plane and its survivors. It was a true miracle that the four survived the impact, an explosion of the plane's fuel, and a recovery, although all victims had severe injuries.

18

2004: Near Evangeline, PEI, a storm surge at high tide carried tonnes of sea ice across cliffs and dunes, and slammed into beachfront cottages and summer homes. The ice floes were 50 cm thick and from 3 to 4 m long. The ice pushed one cottage off its posts and deposited it 2 m inland. The only permanent damage was to a cottage where sheets of sea ice crashed through a wall and lodged in the interior.

19

1904: So intense was the cold weather in Yukon along the Dawson to Whitehorse trail that stage drivers and horses bled profusely from the nostrils. They couldn't wear nose coverings because heated moist breath produces a wall of ice around the nose and mouth. Several passengers suffered frostbitten noses. Temperatures hovered around -58°C.

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1899: Locked in a huge ice floe, the Canadian ferry *Niagara*, with 19 persons on board, was swept helplessly down the Niagara River and wrecked on the international bridge. In doing so, it came dangerously close to the falls. The passengers, realizing their situation, were horror-stricken at the thought of being carried over the falls. Fire tugs were started to rescue the helpless craft.

21

2003: Strong winds and bitter cold produced -40°C wind chills in Montreal. Ironically, the brutal weather put the staging of several extreme winter sports on ice. Crowds at ski resorts stayed indoors. Several resorts closed, not uncommon when it rains, but shocking when sun and snow abound. In Ottawa, schools cancelled outdoor recess and pulled students from crossing guard duty.

22

1934: In Sunnynook, AB, two sisters and their 12-year-old brother were found after being lost in a wild blizzard. The boy guided his sisters to a fence, knowing it would eventually lead to a dwelling.

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1962: A gigantic snow slide 300 m long and 6 m deep, the fourth in 3 days, completely severed land communications between Prince Rupert and Terrace, BC.

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1997: Eighty mushers competed in the 14th Annual Alberta International Sled Dog Classic in Canmore. Temperatures during the event dipped to -38°C. The event, which attracts up to 10,000 spectators in warmer years, barely drew 2,000. One skier—a combination of cross-country skier and dog sledder—sustained third-degree frostbite on several fingers.

25

1916: An inquest jury found that the deaths of two train workers at Pasqua, SK, on the main line of the CPR, in a rear-end collision between a freight train and a pusher engine was weather related. The temperature was -33.3 °C. Steam from one engine obstructed the view of the other train's crew.

26

1934: When the weather in Winnipeg, MB, deteriorated suddenly from rain to bitter cold, officials discovered several abandoned pets. It was the Humane Society's busiest week in some time. One owner's cruelty was revealed when they came upon a sable-coloured collie left in a snowbank to freeze to death. An old windbreaker was the dog's only protection against the -39°C weather.

27

2002: Temperatures across the prairies dipped to -35°C. Road-side assistance had its busiest day of the winter. In Winnipeg, MB, waits were 3 hours long. For one cab company, 2 out of every 5 vehicles were left immobilized by the cold. It was so cold that firefighters' hose lines had to be left on. Sporting goods stores did big business as cold weather apparel flew off the shelves.

28

1914: Near Estevan, SK, a German farmer, his wife, and two children got lost in a storm. At a farmhouse, the occupant refused them shelter and told them to go on 10 km to another homestead. Eventually, they reached the second farm, where they were welcomed. Tragically, however, the little child who was being held by her mother had succumbed to the cold and died.

29

30 **1931:** A cook on Resolution Island, NU, fell off an ice floe into frigid water, then scrambled onto a tiny ice-cake. An attendant from the post succeeded in pulling him to safety.

31 **1933:** The fog was so thick at midnight in Winnipeg, MB, it obscured objects a few metres away, paralyzing traffic. In the "pea soup" fog, thugs perpetrated numerous crimes.

First Quarter ◐

Full Moon ○

JANUARY

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February 2005

MARCH

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		<p>2003: Mild weather resulted in large icicles along rooftops in Kingston, ON. An obscure bylaw compels building owners and occupants to remove roof ice and snow to prevent accidents. Mention of the bylaw in the news prompted a flurry of risky activity, such as people leaning out windows to clear away icicles. The city was also threatened with consequences if they didn't get rid of overhanging snow and ice.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1899: Teams of men worked all day harvesting the ice on the Gatineau River, near Ottawa, ON. For many years the ice had not been as good as it was this winter—50 cm thick and very clear. One company said it would harvest about 26,000 tonnes in all, to store in big icehouses. The previous winter there had been an ice famine, with many companies running out of ice before the summer was over.</p> <p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1914: While steaming through a blinding snowstorm in Portland Inlet, BC, the steamer <i>Vadso</i> struck an uncharted rock and sank in minutes, in 183 m of water. In bitter cold, blinding snow, and fierce winds, the shipwrecked party of 26, without food or warmth of any kind, was able to reach safety at a cannery on the coast, some distance from the scene of the wreck.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1938: Five years ago a snowplow killed a horse wandering on the highway near Garson, MB. The horse's owner demanded compensation. When the government refused to settle, the farmer refused to allow snow fences on his land. Snowdrifts piled high over the road, holding up traffic between Winnipeg and Lac du Bonnet. Finally, the government settled for \$50, snow fences were installed, and traffic moved unimpeded.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1903: A severe thunderstorm crossed over the north shore of New Brunswick and the western part of Prince Edward Island. The lightning was very vivid and the thunder noisy. It was the second winter thunderstorm in a week, so several residents were curious and a few were nervous. Further, at Chatham, king-size ice balls fell, followed in a couple of days by -22°C temperatures.</p> <p>5</p>
<p>1939: Horses hitched to a cutter bolted from a farm near Lloydminster, SK, and disappeared. Six days later a farmer took a chance walk along an unused side road, when his wildly excited dog led him to the horses and cutter, stuck in deep snow, 15 km from where they had started. He freed the horses and took them to a nearby barn because they were too weak to make it home.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1923: Five people, adrift for 4 hours on an ice floe on the St. Lawrence River between Levis and Quebec City, were given up for lost. The ice floe, with 3 men and 2 women, crossed the river about 20 times, owing to the caprices of the tide, current, and winds. In the dark, they called out but were not heard, then prayed as their only hope. Suddenly, the ice stopped moving and they managed to jump to shore.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1933: Swirling snow churned by 70 km/h winds paralyzed parts of Saskatchewan for days. Trains were stuck in monster snowdrifts. Anyone who ventured out could see less than a metre ahead. At Tisdale, SK, a hotel fire killed 7 occupants and drove other guests into the street, barefoot and thinly clad. Flesh was torn from their unprotected feet, and almost all suffered from frostbite.</p> <p>8</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>2003: Each year, the Quest dog-sled race follows the route the prospectors took in the 1896 Klondike gold rush. A section of the trail in this year's race between Braeburn and Carmacks, YT, didn't have enough snow to be safe for mushers and their dog teams. So, trucks helped move the competitors between the two communities and the teams re-started after the ride.</p> <p>9</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Chinese New Year</p>	<p>2004: A 10-cm snowfall, icy cold temperatures, and vicious winds produced blizzard conditions and icy roads across most of Saskatchewan. It was the second major blizzard in less than 2 weeks. The storm left a pile-up involving 50 vehicles, described by some as the worst chain-reaction accident in the province's history. With cars ripped in half, it was incredible that no one was killed.</p> <p>10</p> <p>Islamic New Year</p>	<p>2004: In Ottawa, the cold wind made it feel like -22°C. Early in the morning an elderly woman slipped on some black ice and broke her shoulder and elbow. Fortunately, Gracie, a beagle pup, was out for her walk and pulled her puzzled owner along an unfamiliar route across the street. Luckily, there they found the woman lying motionless on her driveway. She spent five days in the hospital.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>1937: Rescue crews searched for 2 railway men missing in a snow slide that swept a CP snowplow train from the rails, 40 km east of Revelstoke, BC. The slide hurled an engine, caboose, and 3 other cars 15 m down into a snow dump. A second caboose, where a man was believed to be trapped, continued on down the embankment for another 8 m, finally plunging into the Illecillewaet River.</p> <p>12</p>
<p>1894: Terrible cold prevailed across parts of northern and central Ontario. Stories of awful suffering abounded, with at least 20 persons freezing to death. In one tragic, desperate incident, a father murdered 6 members of his family to prevent their suffering. He left a note that he had killed them to save them from freezing. He later committed suicide.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>2003: A Guinness world record for smooching couples—1,588 pairs at once, set in Sarnia, ON, on Valentine's Day, 2000—was still intact as the University of Maine's hope to break the record failed. The bitter cold night—the coldest of the year, with a wind chill of -40°C and the threat of snow—only brought out 943 kissing pairs.</p> <p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>	<p>1965: This year marks the 40th anniversary of the birth of the National Flag of Canada. On this day in 1965, our new flag replaced the Canadian Red Ensign, which had been the official flag for 41 years. On this day in Ottawa, where the flag was proclaimed, the weather at noon was: temperature -1.1°C, wind 26 km/h from the WSW, visibility 11 km, cloudy with no precipitation.</p> <p>15</p> <p>National Flag of Canada Day First Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1979: While residents of Iqaluit, NU, continued to dig out from its worst winter storm in living memory, another blizzard struck. One official said, "This takes the cake for duration and steadiness of cold and snow. Further, there's no alcohol available in town for a long time now because of a gentlemen's agreement with the RCMP that during blizzards none is served or sold."</p> <p>16</p>	<p>2003: Three thousand Nova Scotia students had a "snow day" because of frozen water pipes. Record cold burst pipes in at least 8 schools across the province, including 5 in Halifax. No one could remember so many schools closing at once because of frozen pipes. A city bus company was able to deliver students to open schools because they kept their engines running overnight to prevent diesel from freezing.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1895: Blizzard conditions prevailed over much of eastern Canada. Newspapers reported that owing to the blockade of railroads, shipments of Dodd's Kidney Pills were delayed in transit, causing much misery. To prevent a recurrence of this shortage in the future, the company considered creating Canadian branch establishments for distribution.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>2004: Forecasters called it a white weather bomb—an exploding nor'easter hammering parts of the Maritimes. Heavy snow and fierce winds up to 100 km/h shut down highways and knocked out power to thousands. Both PEI and NS declared province-wide states of emergency for the first time in history. Halifax, NS, got a record-smashing 88 cm of snow in one day, 95 cm over 30 hours.</p> <p>19</p>

1899: A man in Little Bay, NL, met a sad death. To thaw the frost in his vegetable cellar, he lit a fire at about 10 AM. When he returned from hunting at night, he went to the cellar to pick out some potatoes. Three hours later his wife went to call him, but found him dead, lying against the cellar door. People felt he had smothered almost immediately, because the fire had consumed all the available oxygen.

20

1912: The blinding snow and driving winds in Toronto, ON, piled up huge drifts of snow, making streets impassable. Further, trains were almost completely tied up, or late by 1 to 6 hours. The weather also hampered the street railway service. Motormen had to climb off their cars and dig the tightly packed snow out of the switch at every intersection. Citizens complained of the slow service.

21

Family Day (Alberta)

2004: After 87 hours and 10 minutes, an attempt by Canadian soldiers in Edmonton, AB, to break the Guinness world record for the longest hockey game was abandoned when the rink ice melted. Several days of sun and mild temperatures had made the outdoor ice soft and "dangerous." Players were tripping and falling. An attempt to refreeze areas with dry ice failed. Final score: Black 1,186-Red 951.

22

1930: Unprecedented spring-like weather came to southern Ontario. London, at 14.4°C, was 2° warmer than San Francisco; and Toronto, at 12.8°C, was only 5° cooler than Bermuda. Multitudes crowded sidewalks, and thousands of autos jammed streets. With deep snow vanishing rapidly, flooding was a problem and much farmland lay under half a metre of water.

23

Full Moon



Weather Quiz
In recent years about six times more men are killed by lightning than women. Besides spending more time outdoors what is said to be the reason:
1) taller
2) macho image of invincibility
3) willing to take greater risks
4) smaller brains
5) anatomic differences
(Answer on inside back cover)

24

2004: Dense fog caused transportation chaos in Edmonton, AB, especially at the International Airport. Puddles of melted snow evaporated, adding to moisture already brought in by low-level, light, easterly winds. Nearly 80 flights were held up over 24 hours. The only plane that managed to land was a chartered First Air 737. It missed the runway, landing on a snow-covered, grassy infield.

25

2004: The second storm in a week dumped 30 cm of snow on Cape Breton Island, NS, keeping schoolchildren home again. Wind gusts up to 80 km/h created 2-metre-high snowdrifts and whiteout conditions. One high-school student lamented that her school's annual winter ball had to be postponed for the second time in a week. She moaned, "I've had my dress laid out for two weeks now."

26

2004: A powerful blizzard battered parts of eastern Labrador for three days. In total, an extraordinary 121 cm of snow fell at Cartwright, NL. The last time the area had received such a huge snow dump from a single storm was 19 years ago. Wind gusts in excess of 110 km/h reduced visibility to zero in blowing and drifting snow. Officials pulled highway crews off the roads.

27

1907: The temperature hovered below -30°C across the west. Earlier in the month, the temperature had dipped to -41°C in Saskatoon, SK. In Eagle Lake, SK, a man with 2 frozen feet went insane at a neighbour's house from acute suffering with no medical attention. He attacked his neighbour with an iron bar while the latter slept, causing permanent disfigurement.

28



FEBRUARY

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March 2005

APRIL

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Sunday

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Tuesday

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Saturday

		<p>2000: At Thunder Bay, ON, the temperature soared to 15.5°C. Rain and warmth reduced snowmobile trails to mud. With poor snow conditions for the third year running, snowmobilers were beginning to question the future of their sport. Those hauling wood out of the bush could work only at night because logging roads looked like a muddy war zone by day.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2003: A supercharged blast of frigid air straight from Hudson Bay plunged temperatures to near-record lows across southern Ontario. Winds also whipped snow into huge drifts, leaving roads treacherous for drivers and pedestrians. It was a classic flash-freeze as temperatures fell from above-freezing to -25° in a few hours. In Toronto, the city issued another cold alert.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>1925: Snow nearly 1.5 m deep buried country roads south of Edmonton, AB. Making a 30-minute trip with a team of horses was a day-long struggle. In one incident, a farmer took off after a couple of grain thieves by following their sleigh tracks for 30 km. He then handed the case to the police, who found several bags of stolen grain secreted in snow banks near the home of one of the accused.</p> <p>3</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p>2003: Temperatures in Alberta felt more like mid-January than early March. Snow and strong winds caused poor visibility for drivers, especially between Banff and Lake Louise. In Red Deer, weeks of plowing and sanding had depleted 90% of the year's snow removal budget, still with 10 months to go. In Edmonton, the brutal cold once again forced the homeless into shelters.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2003: The recent, prolonged cold in eastern Canada caused a dramatic surge in sea-ice cover over the Gulf of St. Lawrence and east Newfoundland waters. In the gulf, there was about 25% more sea ice than normal for this time of year, hampering ferry service, cargo traffic, and fishing operations. On the Great Lakes, strong winds pushed massive ice blocks, up to 6 m high, along the shores.</p> <p>5</p>
<p>1923: Called a "storm king," a fierce gale blew into Halifax, NS, bringing with it snow, freezing rain, rain, and ice pellets. At times during the day there was no power. The winds lifted the roof from a large building almost intact and dropped it into the street. Several people narrowly escaped serious injury. The high wind also caused a large number of chimney fires and toppled several others.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>2004: Early March wildfires are unusual in Alberta. Most early season fires emanate from ground left smouldering through the winter. Mild temperatures and strong winds kept fire crews scrambling to contain a fire in the Weldwood Forest Management Area, about 15 km southwest of Hinton. A forestry expert said that the early fire could signal a long, fierce fire season this year.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Weather Quiz What percent of time can morning forecasts predict the day's maximum temperature to within three degrees? 1) 80% 2) 100% 3) 75% 4) 90% 5) 86% (Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p>8</p>	<p>2004: Across Edmonton, AB, mighty northwesterly winds toppled light poles, smashed windows, tipped trailers, and gravel-whipped pedestrians. One woman from wind-prone Lethbridge, AB, advised Edmontonians to hang onto lamp posts or put rocks in their pockets. The only problem with using light poles was that, on one street, several of them were blown over.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>2004: Strong winds and blowing snow caused a flurry of accidents in and around Regina, SK, including a fatal five-car pile-up northwest of the city. All highways in and out of Regina were closed in the morning due to slippery roads and near-zero visibility. Not a lot of snow fell in the storm, but the strong winds and cold temperatures created a lot of black ice.</p> <p>10</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1993: In what meteorologists called the very first "storm of the century," more than 100 people died in eastern North America. In Canada, winds near Georges Bank, NS, blew at 130 km/h, generating a 20-m wall of water. A foreign cargo ship, listing badly and fighting 6-storey waves, lost a desperate struggle about 200 km southeast of Cape Sable Island, sinking with all hands lost.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>1974: St. John's, NL, remained in a state of emergency as snowplows worked to clear roads blocked by a massive storm. The storm, with winds gusting to more than 120 km/h, dropped 45 cm of snow on the city during a 36-hour period. The city's two daily newspapers suspended publication. The storm halted all airline and bus transportation, generated power failures, and closed schools.</p> <p>12</p>
<p>1940: Following the worst storm of the year, farmers across southern Ontario spent hours pulling cars from snowdrifts. Some stranded motorists were forced to seek refuge at farmhouses for the night. After bucking huge drifts, a school bus turned around and students were billeted in town. At Point Pelee the rain and snow ended a swamp fire where many muskrats and pheasants had turned to death.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1901: A citizen sued the CPR for \$2,000 in damages for injuries suffered when the company did not "wait for him" on a cold day. He had boarded the train at Montreal, QC, and, because he had lost his ticket, got off again to buy one. He ran to catch the departing train, setting foot on the step of the last Pullman car, which was locked. He was badly frozen in the -18°C temperature.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>2004: A project to excavate 1.3 million cubic metres of mud and debris from Wascana Lake in Regina, SK, finished on time and on budget, despite some difficult weather—blizzards, wicked winds, snow storms, warm temperatures, and vicious cold. The 38-ha lake had become too shallow from sediment buildup, and if the lake wasn't deepened, it would soon turn into marsh.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1900: Near Ottawa, ON, the last of the ice harvest ended, almost a month later than the year before. During the winter months, 100 men were engaged cutting ice above the Chaudière Falls. A good day's work is 3,000 cakes, each weighing about 220 kg. In total, about 20,000 tonnes of good quality ice were taken and stored. The travelling ice men usually started their rounds on 1 May.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1902: Unseasonably mild temperatures and heavy rains in southern New Brunswick caused one of the earliest spring breakups in history. More than 100 mm of rain fell at Saint John over 57 hours, breaking previous records. Severe ice jamming along the Saint John River caused flooding at several places, damaging downtown buildings in Fredericton and sweeping away several bridges.</p> <p>17</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day First Quarter ☾</p>	<p>2004: A storm packing winds up to 90 km/h wreaked havoc on southern Vancouver Island, BC, toppling trees that smashed a power transmission tower and left the town of Ladysmith and 30,000 customers without power for several hours. In addition, 20 cm of snow fell, blocking the Trans-Canada Highway north of Victoria and preventing thousands of commuters from getting home.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>1896: One of the worst March storms in years blew into Toronto and parts of southern Ontario. The heavy snow blocked roads and rail lines. East of Toronto, a local farmer and his 2 sons noticed what looked like the top of a pail lying in the snow. With the three digging away, they soon uncovered the smokestack of an abandoned railway engine.</p> <p>19</p>

20 2004: Two Quebec men spent a full day trapped on a frozen lake near Wabush, NL, after they were forced to make an emergency landing. Two search-and-rescue technicians parachuted to the site and found the stranded men. They set up a camp and waited for a helicopter to arrive. Its arrival was delayed by bad weather but it eventually made the rescue late the next day.

Palm Sunday
Spring Equinox 07:34 EST

21 1961: A savage, surprise snow storm battered PEI with winds that reached 125 km/h, suspending most travel and stranding hundreds of people in Charlottetown. A call from Montrose to remove a snow bank from the 10-m-high main power line from Alberton to Tignish was first thought to be a joke by the Maritime Electric Company, but the 6,900-volt lines were completely covered.

22 1955: A violent storm, born on the plains of Texas, raced from Windsor to Ottawa in Ontario. In Toronto, policemen maintained an anxious vigil around St. James' Cathedral, at the corner of King and Church. A 3-m-high weathervane topping the steeple teetered precariously and threatened to plunge 80 m to the ground. Police set barricades across the sidewalks.

23 2003: An early spring snowfall dumped up to 15 cm of snow across Nova Scotia, causing havoc on provincial highways. Vehicles including several tractor-trailers slid off slippery roads and highways. Said one meteorologist, Nova Scotians should never equate the arrival of spring with the end of winter weather.

World Meteorological Day

24 1999: Spring arrived in Ontario but the swans in Stratford were not rejoicing. Ice on the Avon River forced the community to call off the Swan Parade for the first time in the event's 15-year history. The swans are ceremoniously awoken from their winter slumber and accompanied by pipers to the banks of the Avon River. This year the swans had to be shuttled by van to the river—without much ceremony.

25 1910: During a thunderstorm at Rideau Ferry, ON, lightning struck a woodshed and ran along a passageway between two large woodpiles, ripping two boards off the floor and standing them on end. The lightning then entered a house, blowing out every window with the exception of one in the bedroom where a woman lay seriously ill. To keep the rain out, blankets were hung at every casement.

Good Friday Full Moon ○

26 2003: Recent major snowfalls, warming weather, and high winds combined to create numerous overhanging lips of snow on the slopes in the back-country of British Columbia. The cornices were breaking off, falling onto slopes, and triggering avalanches. Twenty-eight people lost their lives in avalanches in the Canadian Rockies this year, the second deadliest year in nearly a century.

27 1898: The worst Newfoundland sealing fleet disaster ever occurred near Bay de Verde. About 50 sealers died from exposure and another 70 had serious injuries requiring amputation. Ignoring the approach of darkness and a storm, they were swept away on the ice floe on which they were working. Piercing cold and pouring rain froze clothing to their bodies, causing death from the frightful exposure.

Easter Sunday

28 2004: Winnipeg, MB, was soggy after a pounding rain—an all-time March record of 30 to 50 mm that melted snow and submerged sections of the city in huge puddles. Many homeowners mopped their flooded basements. The city's supply of free sandbags was exhausted. Outside Winnipeg, residents worked around the clock to keep rising waters away. One quick-thinking resident used his snow blower to get rid of water.

29 1968: A plucky 7-year-old German shepherd returned to his farm home at Marie, PEI, after being entombed for 82 days in a snow-filled railway ditch. A farm boy heard a whimper and found the animal in a deep, snow-filled ditch about 400 m from the family home. The dog couldn't walk or bark and was half his normal weight, but, fed cat food and milk, he gained it back quickly. [adapted from the *Halifax Herald*]

30 2004: Albertans shed their parkas for a few days as July-like temperatures smashed records across the province. The nation's hot spot was Drumheller at 28°C. In Edmonton, gardeners headed to garden centres, looking for bedding plants. Said one garden centre manager: "I know the newcomers. Long-time Alberta residents know that you don't start planting for 6 to 8 weeks from now."

31 2003: At the end of March, the combination of a carwash-like downpour—80 to 120 mm in 12 hours—heavy snow on saturated ground, and high tides caused major flooding in all four Atlantic provinces. Some communities got a month's worth of rain in just a day, prompting evacuations and numerous states of emergency. For Nova Scotia, it was the most expensive rainstorm in history.



MARCH

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April 2005

MAY

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Sunday

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Tuesday

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Saturday

					<p>1968: Lightning crashed into a home in Kentville, NS, causing a tremor heard half a kilometre away. The flash struck near the television antenna, blew out a section of the roof, and started a fire that gutted the attic and rear roof.</p> <p>1</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1985: A vicious 3-day blizzard, the longest in living memory, dumped over 100 cm of snow on Ottawa, ON. The snow fell for 52 hours, causing the roof of the Royal Museum Theatre to collapse with such a loud crash local residents thought a powder magazine had exploded. Fortunately, the theatre was empty at the time because the blizzard had forced cancellation of the matinee.</p> <p>2</p>
<p>2003: The Edmonton (AB) Economic Development Group wanted a new slogan and logo for the "City of Champions." Kerry Diotte of the <i>Edmonton Sun</i> offered several suggestions to counter the city's image of being too cold: Edmonton—snow joke, we're a warm community; Edmonton—we're warmer than Winnipeg; Edmonton—hot damn what a place; and Edmonton—at least it's never snowed in July!</p> <p>3</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	<p>2003: A rare mid-spring ice storm in southern Ontario ended up the winter's worst. Most snow-clearing contracts had just expired. Air Canada cancelled most of its North American flights into and out of Toronto, blaming a shortage of de-icing fluid. Maintenance crews used a month's supply in just 24 hours. De-icer was being trucked in, but treacherous road conditions interfered.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1932: Thirty lumberjacks were marooned for 2 weeks on Quebec's La Big Island. An early ice breakup had trapped the work party and shifting ice floes made their return impossible. They lit signal fires and ate gruel until rescuers reached the island. One man was left behind with provisions for himself and the horses. When the ice situation improved, the horses swam across the river.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1981: Winds gusting to 140 km/h ripped through southern Saskatchewan, knocking down power lines, forcing schools to close, and tearing precious topsoil from fields in Alberta and Saskatchewan. At times, visibility was nil. One farmer said it was like a bad snowstorm—the worst dust storm he'd seen in 20 years.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>2003: Warton Willie was so ashamed of himself for a busted forecast of an early spring that he sent a stand-in to explain to the Warton, ON, town council. Willie couldn't appear himself because his burrow was still buried in snow. His handlers said: "Willie went cap in paw to publicly apologize for his mistake to the mayor and council and to all Canadians and to his international friends."</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1992: St. John's, NL, and nearby communities struggled to shake off the effects of a "silver thaw" storm that coated transmission lines with sticky, freezing rain. Cold temperatures and glaze hampered repair crews from climbing transmission towers to replace broken insulators. Service stations were unable to dispense gasoline from electrically driven pumps.</p> <p>8</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>2000: Strong, gusty winds up to 90 km/h sent ice floes smashing through property on Lake George near Fredericton, NB. Ice chunks as big as 6 m, piled 2.5 m deep in places, damaged 6 waterfront dwellings. The ice knocked patios and decks off their moorings, and blocked roads to the shore. The wind likely created downward pressure on the lake surface, forcing the ice up and onto the shore.</p> <p>9</p>
<p>2003: A long, intense cold spell produced some of the worst ice conditions in a decade on the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, and Atlantic Coast. Strong winds pushed massive blocks of ice, up to 6 m high, onto the eastern and southern shores of the Great Lakes. The lakes also experienced record March ice cover, with the surfaces of lakes Superior, Erie, and Huron 98% covered.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1992: 50,000 Toronto baseball fans arrived for the opening day of the season. But ice was falling from overhead structures, so the police closed the walkway between the CN Tower and SkyDome, and roped off streets to the east. For the first few innings, ice crashing down from above could be heard among the crowd noise.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>2000: Charlottetown, PEI, City Council decided to continue spring garbage pickup as usual, beginning on 1 May and not earlier, as one councillor had suggested. He favoured a mid-April pickup because global warming was bringing earlier springs. With the warm weather, overzealous residents were raking their yards earlier.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>1938: The Honeymoon Bridge, forced from its Canadian and American supports 10 weeks ago by an ice-jam, sank to the bottom of the Niagara River, ON. Thousands watched the massive steelwork sail a kilometre downstream on its natural carrier. Ice breakup on the Niagara River also crushed hundreds of ducks as they sat on ice floes and unexpectedly went over the falls in dense fog.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1899: Ice from the veranda of a house in Ottawa, ON, fell on a 17-year-old girl. In a few seconds, half a tonne of 25-cm-thick ice chunks fell, badly bruising her head and body, fracturing her skull, and crushing her lungs. She died soon after. The veranda was shaded to by the roof which accounted for the ice and snow not melting during recent mild weather.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>2002: Over the weekend, with mild temperatures and abundant sunshine, Edmontonians enjoyed bicycling and barbecuing. Today, though, they awoke to a record 24.6 cm of heavy, wet snow. The mayor couldn't remember a bigger snowfall so late in the season. But the defiant mayor said: "We won't be like the mayor of Toronto and call in the army. We'll take care of it on our own."</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1958: The most destructive tornado ever to hit Watrous, SK, took out a large barn, trapping more than 100 pigs. Some animals were buried in the wreckage; others were given a whirlwind push to the northeast. Later, farmers found 5 of the animals more than 2 km away. The winds also scattered hundreds of bales of straw. The main barn had disappeared, except for the loft floor.</p> <p>16</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>

1967: Two snowstorms a week apart dumped from 150 to 200 cm of snow on southern Alberta. 12,000 cows and calves perished on the open range. Many animals drifted with the storm and became trapped in snow-filled gullies. Other livestock losses were attributed to exhaustion and pneumonia. Survivors suffered weight loss and disease, such as foot-rot and scours.

17

1914: On her way to Canada, a young Russian woman survived a terrible 6-day storm crossing the Atlantic Ocean that left her ship partly submerged. A passing American boat picked up survivors and she was reunited with her brother in Edmonton, AB. Watching a movie about a shipwreck a few days later, she screamed, fainted, and (it was reported) went insane.

18

2003: Twenty-eight people lost their lives in avalanches in the Canadian Rockies in 2003, tying 1965 for the second deadliest year in nearly a century. 2002–2003 was an El Niño year, when weather often creates complex and unusual snow conditions ripe for avalanches. Snow pack changed quickly and often, making the avalanche hazard extreme for most of the year.

19

1941: The stillness of a record hot day in Montreal, QC, with 30.0°C temperatures, was shattered by a brief storm. The “hurricane” tore down fences, signage, and utility poles, and drove heavy rain in sheets with such violence that all traffic came to a halt. At the downtown Kresge store, the awning and its metal frame blew into the storefront window, smashing the plate glass.

20

1932: While city folk dug marooned automobiles out of huge snowdrifts, Alberta wheat farmers rejoiced over the “worst” snowstorm in 20 years. The huge snowfall replenished the subsoil moisture. Owing to street damage and flooding, the Alberta Minister of Highways ordered vehicular traffic off all provincial highways for a few days to keep damage to a minimum.

21

1938: At noon in Winnipeg, MB, darkness grew and birds retreated to their nests. Strong southerly winds blew dust from Minnesota into the Manitoba capital. Motorists driving into Canada reported seeing dust clouds all the way. Women along Portage Avenue were shocked to see their faces streaked with mud and their new silk stockings sprayed with sand.

22

1885: Sixty-five days ago, the barquentine *Maranee* entered an icefield off Newfoundland. Unexpectedly, the ice began to “raft” and sliced through the bow-planking. The crew stuffed canvas between the shattered bow-timbers to keep water out, but soon they abandoned ship onto a pan of ice. Marooned for days, they experienced rain, freezing rain, hail, and a spectacular thunderstorm.

23

Earth Day

1964: Wind-blown icefields off Cape Breton Island, NS, were the worst since 1961, when the ice “almost reached bottom and then rolled over.” The MV *William Carson*, covered only 5 km in the first 3 hours of hard going, and was 15 hours late. Twin Canadian Coast Guard ice-breakers worked around the clock, plowing through rafting ice of 7 m or more in some areas.

24

Weather Quiz
Which among these is nature’s deadliest phenomenon in North America?
1) lightning
2) tornadoes
3) hurricanes
4) rip tides or currents
5) avalanches
(Answer on inside back cover)

25

1908: About 5:00 AM, when most of the villagers of a small settlement near Buckingham, QC, were in their beds, an enormous mass of earth and snow rushed down the mountainside and engulfed several occupied homes. The landslide-avalanche crossed and dammed the river, and covered some 20 buildings on the far side. In the end, it killed 34 people, wiping out entire families.

26

2003: A spring storm stalled over southern Alberta, dumping from 50 to 80 cm of snow in less than 12 hours. Heavy rain from the previous day and thigh-deep, wet snow caused havoc in the Calgary area, halting airport operations and burying vehicles in snowdrifts. Undeterred, 1,000 young people lined up the next day in freezing weather to audition for CTV’s Canadian Idol show.

27

1940: The ice moved out of Dawson, YT, at 1:54 PM; the previous earliest breakup record was set on 2 May 1934. Contrary to expectations, the ice required no extra, heavy upstream “bump.” The main ice sheet, marked with a town flag, moved slowly forward for about 100 m and then stopped. This was sufficient to officially end the ice breakup contest. Two winners shared nearly \$3,800.

28

2002: Mental health workers in central Alberta said that local residents were feeling the blues and calling crisis lines more often because of gloomy weather, which promotes bouts of loneliness and depression. Everybody was still in ski jackets (not shorts), the grass was still dirty brown, trees had not leafed out, and golf courses were afraid to open. And, oh yes, it was tax time!

29

1923: At Drumheller, AB, lightning struck the powder house at the ABC Mine during a severe thunderstorm. Fortunately, only one can, containing about 2.5 kg of powder, exploded. Some employees pluckily entered the building and tossed out the fuse.

30

APRIL

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May 2005

JUNE

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Sunday

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Saturday

1921: Before a man from Bawlt, AB, 90 km southeast of Edmonton, could remove his newly acquired machine shed, strong winds moved it for him. Hurricane-force winds knocked it over and scattered the debris over a large distance.

1

Last Quarter ☾

1933: Lightning struck 3 children walking home from school near Peterborough, ON, killing 2. The sole survivor, a little boy named Elmer, was lying in the ditch when he came to; his sister and a friend were lying dead on the road. The girl's hair was burned and her stockings torn; there was no other visible sign of injury. Her companion's skin was discoloured.

2

1921: Winds gusting over 90 km/h caused extensive property damage across Saskatchewan. The storm downed hydro lines and interfered with telephone communications. It also carried away wind instruments at the University of Saskatchewan. Across the province, seeding was suspended. Experts worried that in light, well-worked soil, seed would be blown out of the ground.

3

1952: Strong winds toppled hydro poles around Esterhazy, SK, leaving wires suspended a metre above the ground. Families going to church crossed safely over the downed lines. On returning home, one motorist stepped out of his car to hold down the wires and was electrocuted. At the instant he held down the lines, power was turned back on momentarily for testing.

4

1924: With afternoon temperatures hovering in the mid-20s, two public swimming pools in Edmonton, AB, opened on the weekend to good attendance—700 people. The temperature fell overnight to 0.6°C. Only 230 swimmers showed up today when snowflakes about the size of palm leaves appeared out of the murky atmosphere. Swimmers indulged in mini snowball wars.

5

1995: A late spring snowstorm dropped 20 cm of snow across Nova Scotia. The air-inflated roof at the Dalhousie University sports complex caved when a computer to monitor air pressure and a system to melt roof snow failed to turn on. A quick melt and resultant water flooded a prized basketball court, stained a rubberized floor, and warped hardwood courts, worth at least \$100,000 each.

6

1895: Forecasters in Toronto, ON, predicted warmer weather for Nova Scotia, but that was not strong enough language to prepare locals for the intense heat that came. The temperature in Halifax jumped from 5°C at 8 AM to 32.4°C at 3 PM. The air was suffocating because of smoke from nearby forest fires.

7

1878: A severe thunderstorm passed over Kingston, ON. Rain poured in torrents and lightning flashed long and often. One bolt entered the office in the Dominion Telegraph Office and set fire to the switchboard, completely severing the connecting wires. A passing cabman gave the alarm. His promptitude restricted damage to less than \$50, without interruption of service.

8

Mother's Day New Moon ●

1939: Dust storms forced southern Saskatchewan residents to use lights at mid-day and halt motor traffic. At Chaplin, winds blew down utility poles and fences. In Regina, airborne dust seeped through doors and windows. Near Uren, the storm blew a wagon and team of horses off the road. Farmers in various localities expressed hope that drifting soil would help get rid of grasshoppers.

9

1922: Suddenly, a black tunnel-shaped cloud appeared in the sky above Manitoba. In 10 minutes, the storm left a trail of wrecked buildings and shattered towers belonging to Winnipeg's electrical power grid. At Lydiatt, the wind split the railway station into two; each section was moved almost a metre off its foundation and the platform was carried several metres away.

10

2003: Too many weeks of cold, snowy, cloudy weather in southern Alberta demoralized people's psyche, disrupted sleep patterns, and zapped energy levels. Canoeing courses fell victim to the snow and cool winds. Entire outdoor programs were scrapped, creating a logistical nightmare. Soccer players looking over swamped pitches groaned with frustration.

11

1939: Two American schooners met in a head-on collision in dense fog on the Grand Banks, NL. The seamen from one wreck fought their way toward land. After 29 hours, a freighter came within a kilometre of their drifting dory, but steamed past without seeing them or hearing their hollering. Two days later, most of the 33 survivors had been picked up by fishing vessels and brought to Yarmouth, NS.

12

1908: Three sailors, lost at sea for 3 days, were resting back in Victoria, BC, re-living their story. They had headed out in their 5-metre sealing vessel to chase seals off Queen Charlotte Sound and had failed to note a change in weather. Suddenly a storm burst upon them. It is little short of miraculous that they survived the storm, having bailed frantically to stay afloat.

13

1999: In Edmonton, AB, rain for 10 of the last 13 days turned golf courses into watery wastelands and soccer fields into quagmires. The damp weather was great for farmers, umbrella salesmen, and waterfowl, but it was bad news for carwash operators, sports teams, and others. However, one agricultural expert said: "The rain isn't a pain if you're growing grain."

14

1943: Hundreds of volunteers fought Lake Erie's high water and mighty waves to save the Erieau onlon marsh from inundation. Men rushed every available truck and tractor to haul sand bags. Volunteers packed 10,000 sand bags and placed them along the dykes; a bag holds nearly 90 kg of wet sand. The homes of several families and the seedling onlons were thus saved.

15

1923: The weather conditions on the Labrador, NL, coast were the worst ever in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. At Cartwright, snow covered the houses so completely that only the chimney poked through. The storm trapped the school master in his house for 2 days, and a man walking overhead on snowshoes heard him tapping on the iron chimney to attract attention.

16

1841: A large portion of the cliff near the foot of the Citadel in Quebec City, QC—about 80 m—gave way, overwhelming houses beneath and burying numerous residents under masses of rock and rubbish. Rescuers extricated 13 dead bodies from the ruins. Frost had expanded fissures in the rock, loosening it to the point of detachment.

17

2003: A strong twirling wind, described as a tornado but more likely a dust devil, blew through Marysville, ON, tearing clothes from clothes lines. In once yard, winds lifted a patio umbrella out of a table and carried it high over the house. In another yard, winds picked up a kid's swimming pool, which the owners never found. Winds scattered towels more than 3 streets away.

18

2003: Smoke from massive Russian forest fires near Lake Baikal drifted over Alaska and northwestern Canada. Strong westerly winds pushed the huge smoke plume, which was about the size of Ontario and Quebec combined. The smoke and haze, not noticeable on the ground, were confined to 2,000 m or higher, and the particles were very tiny. The plume produced some spectacular sunrises.

19

1933: Egg-size hailstones fell from a freak shower causing heavy damage in the little village of Ship Harbour, NS. Large hailstones riddled the roofs of 25 homes, giving the appearance of having been blasted by machine guns. They also smashed windows and crushed scores of hens and chickens.

20

1953: A family of tornadoes in southwest Ontario caused 5 deaths and 41 injuries. In Sarnia, the storm levelled 12 blocks of the downtown business district. A young mother and her 3 children were in the waiting room of the customs office at the ferry docks when the storm broke. Her small boy was in the washroom. When he returned, he said: "Hey, Mommy, did I miss something?"

21

First Quarter ☾

2001: Strong winds, blowing from 63 km/h to 85 km/h, downed several tree branches in Winnipeg, MB. Trees snapped like toothpicks, smashing many parked cars. Work crews scrambled for days clearing debris. On Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba, the strong winds generated huge waves. At the Sagkeeng First Nation on Catfish Creek, winds forced residents to deploy sandbags to quell rising water.

22

Weather Quiz
How many lightning flashes occur in an average year across Canada?
1) 6 million
2) 24 million
3) almost 3 million
4) 1/2 million
5) over 8 million
(Answer on inside back cover)

23

Victoria Day

Full Moon



1912: The first parachute jump in Canada was made by Charles Saunders in Vancouver. The weather was ideal: 21°C, no precipitation, and light winds.

24

2003: A pilot from Calgary landed near the North Pole to rescue a stranded British explorer who had spent a week on drifting ice in -40°C, with his rations running low. Earlier, he had become the first person to reach the North Pole unassisted. The frost-bitten adventurer marked out a make-shift runway on the floating ice using plastic bags.

25

2003: Golf pros at a Regina, SK, course sounded the horn alerting golfers to the presence of severe thunderstorms, but not before lightning had struck 3 golfers. The most seriously injured victim was conscious, but disoriented. Those attending him initially worried about being struck again, but they thought it was unlikely, since lightning doesn't strike the same place twice. Not!

26

2000: A freak accident killed a woman on the Rivershore Golf Links in Kamloops, BC. Strong winds blew down several poplar trees. One 16-m tree crushed the roof of the golf cart she was driving, killing her instantly.

27

1921: A cloudburst, described as a once-in-a-lifetime storm, took out 4 bridges near Bradford, ON. The flood carried away fence stumps, including groundhogs riding on top of the posts. A local farmer, coming across the washout, took off his red winter underwear, waded into water up to his neck, and used the red flannels to flag down the Orillia train, thereby avoiding another disaster.

28

1932: From floating chicken yards to shingled bungalows, from barking dogs to children at play, a whole village floated by Vancouver, BC. The village was a logging camp being moved by barge from Pitt River to Elk Bay, some 200 km north of Vancouver. The trip began 10 days ago, but after descending the Fraser River, bad weather kept it at Steveston until today.

29

1966: A violent rain and windstorm rocked the area between Empress, AB, and Burstall, SK, damaging buildings, fences, trees, and TV antennas. The town of Empress almost went up in flames, but a boy noticed the reflection of flames through a warehouse window and alerted the volunteer fire brigade, who fought the flames for 90 minutes.

30

Last Quarter



1923: A combination of an intense cloudburst—50 mm of rain in 16 hours—and rising rivers, swollen from snow melt, created disastrous flooding in southern Alberta. The floodwaters in the Crowsnest Pass took out bridges and held up trains. The Old Man River held its greatest stream volume ever recorded. The flood left 200 homeless and drowned scores of livestock.

31

MAY

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June 2005

JULY

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31

Sunday

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			<p>1935: Tornadoes ripped across Manitoba, leaving behind trails of destruction. At Strathclair, a twister wrecked several farm wagons and small buildings. At Portage la Prairie, the winds blew railway cars off the tracks, uprooted trees, and killed livestock. The 10-hour rain also doused a forest fire burning out-of-control in the Porcupine Forest.</p>	1	<p>1920: A terrific storm broke over Ottawa, interrupting telephone and electric services, smashing windows with hail, and blowing down awnings and trees. In the 20-minute rage, a record 35 mm of rain fell. Lightning burned down a large barn containing hay worth \$1,000, and also levelled a warehouse filled with farm implements, fodder, and garden supplies.</p>	2	<p>1899: Between 25 and 30 Native people—men, women, and children—drowned in a small lake in Alberta during spring “pottlatch,” a ceremony celebrating religious rites and a division of property. The victims arrived in two long boats fabricated from caribou skins, and collided in dense lake fog.</p>	3	<p>1966: A BBC television crew had just finished 3 weeks of filming polar bears in Alert Bay, NT, when a storm blew in, pushing the ice floe where they were camped from shore. Within 10 minutes, there were about 20 m of deathly cold water between them and the main ice shelf. The crew was marooned for several hours with neither a radio nor sufficient food and fuel.</p>	4			
<p>1932: It didn't rain “cats and dogs” at Banff, AB, but it rained wild ducks instead. During a brief heavy rainstorm, a night flight of wild ducks was forced down and they mistook the illuminated asphalt and oiled roads for streams. Many birds crashed, breaking their necks. The next morning children reaped a harvest of dimes by collecting and selling the dead birds to a local taxidermist.</p>	5	<p>1925: Lightning struck a home near Racine, QC. The bolt killed one girl and injured her sister so badly that the storm left her “a life of despair,” as described by her family. Another sister miraculously escaped injury. The injured girl was to have been married the next day.</p>	6	<p>1999: A swirling microburst struck Toronto, ON. The winds scattered wooden planks, electric wiring, and pink insulation for a square kilometre. The roof of a vehicle was ripped off and conveniently dropped in a nearby Canadian Tire lot. Another car had a wooden beam protruding through its windshield. Said the owner, “we just had the windshield replaced because of a stone chip.”</p>	7	<p>1900: A brief, violent storm struck Ottawa in a blinding torrent. With the rain came a sharp fusillade of hailstones that struck the pavement and rebounded many metres into the air. At the Experimental Farm, the wind and hail severely damaged fruit, flowers, and foliage. The storm caused a stampede amongst the delivery and hack horses standing about the city streets.</p>	8	<p>2003: Calgarians complained about an overpopulation of buzzing mosquitoes, inflated by a relatively wet spring and unseasonably strong winds. The numbers were the highest in 3 years. As the winds dried up puddles, water-filled ditches in rural areas and gusty winds stymied city spraying efforts. Staff can only spray insecticide when the wind speed is less than 25 km/h.</p>	9	<p>2002: Fog kept New Brunswick's Premier Bernard Lord from landing at Pictou, NS, where the 4 Atlantic premiers were meeting prior to August's Annual Premiers' Conference. Lord had decided to attend his children's recital, opting to fly out in the morning. Thick fog at the Pictou airstrip kept his plane circling for at least 3 passes before returning to Fredericton.</p>	10	<p>Weather Quiz Besides tropical storms, what other natural phenomenon is given a name? 1) blizzards 2) tornadoes 3) monsoonal storms 4) icebergs 5) earthquakes (Answer on inside back cover)</p>	11
		<p>World Environment Day New Moon ●</p>											
<p>1939: Piles of debris lay along the train route the Royal couple, King George and Queen Elizabeth, were going to take through the Eastern Townships, QC. A tornado the day before had ripped bunting, shields, flags, and banners to shreds. In St. Johns, QC, several houses and sheds were demolished. Workers moved feverishly to replace the destroyed decorations and clean up before the Royals arrived.</p>	12	<p>2003: Three men fell into icy BC waters southeast of Sandspit, after their fishing boat started sinking. Immediately, their life raft was swept away in 75-km/h winds and 4-metre waves. Fortunately, a luxury cruise liner happened by and rescued the 3 mariners, who suffered mild hypothermia. The only thing that remained visible of their vessel was a small portion of a mast.</p>	13	<p>2003: Weather forecasters all but promised Montrealers a dry sunny weekend. Instead it rained for three days—a total of 40 mm—putting a real damper on weekend events that featured the Formula One Canadian Grand Prix. Outside the city, farmers reported huge losses having cut their first hay crop two days earlier, believing the forecast of several days of good drying weather.</p>	14	<p>1892: For half an hour, the sky over Amherst, NS, was illuminated with lightning. One bolt struck a roof and entered two attached houses. In one structure, the current passed along the wall, destroying pictures along its path. It was the second time this house had been struck. In Milford, NS, lightning split nearly every telephone and telegraph post in the area.</p>	15	<p>1923: Tornadoic wind played pranks near Saskatoon, SK. It rotated an occupied farmhouse on its foundations. It also smashed the barn and outbuildings, including 6 granaries, and killed 8 horses and several head of cattle. In the city, winds blew the roof off a lumber company's warehouse. The building itself was gently moved across the street and deposited in a vacant lot.</p>	16	<p>1838: The barque <i>Sir Archibald Campbell</i>, bound from Miramichi, NB, to Prince Edward Island, struck hard on the North Cape reef in heavy fog. The crew made it safely to shore, only to have a Yankee fishing schooner plunder the wreck.</p>	17	<p>1890: A married couple from Moncton, NB, died when lightning ignited their home. The rapid progress of the fire prevented others from helping. Their neighbours were horrified by what they saw through the window. The woman, in shock, lay down by her burning husband, who was sick in bed. The charred remains of the husband and wife were found in the ruins.</p>	18
				<p>First Quarter ●</p>									

Weather Quiz
Besides tropical storms, what other natural phenomenon is given a name?
1) blizzards
2) tornadoes
3) monsoonal storms
4) icebergs
5) earthquakes
(Answer on inside back cover)

1988: Amidst foul weather and thousands of offshore icebergs, ships were blockaded from coming ashore with provisions for the destitute fishers and their families at Twillingate, White Bay, and St. Anthony, NL. Seven died of hunger in St. Anthony. A Catholic Priest dispatched a messenger to Tilt Cove with this desperate telegram: "Send provisions at once; if not, boards to make a coffin."

19

Father's Day

2003: For the third time, a South African couple is fighting for permission to live in rainy Prince Rupert, BC, the cloudiest city in Canada. They won a crucial federal court victory against Canada Immigration, entitling them to another hearing. The family suffers from a severe form of porphyria, a rare genetic condition that makes them unable to tolerate sunlight.

20

2003: An Edmonton, AB, golf pro failed in his third attempt to break the world record for the most holes golfed in a 24-hour period, set in 1990. He had completed 817 holes in miserable weather when time ran out. To break the record, he needed to golf at least 847 holes, averaging 18 holes a half hour. Twelve hours of rain had made the grass too treacherous for driving his souped-up golf cart.

21

Summer Solstice 02:46 EOT

1891: A couple and their two children from Kildonan, MB, had a narrow escape with death when what was reported to be an "amateur cyclone" swept away the upper half storey of their log cabin. The family, asleep upstairs, was thrown out upon the ground. A close relative found the father and two children lying unconscious among pieces of bedroom furniture and building materials.

22

Full Moon 

2003: In southern Ontario, summer arrived on cue with warm, sunny weather. Toronto issued its first smog advisory and started what was to be its first and only heat wave that summer. It was so hot in the Toronto area that roads buckled. Amid responses of derision, Ontario's environment minister asked residents to curtail barbecuing and delay grass cutting to improve air quality.

23

2002: A stormy day in eastern Ontario triggered a series of mishaps. Lightning either struck a 62-year old motorcyclist or he fell off his bike when a nearby tree was struck in Stittsville. One of five parachutists caught in the storm soared upwards instead of down and landed in Orleans. A rain-fed wall of water slammed over a 10-m-high cliff near Calabogie, killing a mother and her son.

24

St-Jean-Baptise Day

1915: A tornado swept through Redcliff, AB, killing 2, injuring 10, and inflicting property damage of \$500,000. The storm damaged nearly every private house and building in town. A tornado also struck the small town of Grassy Lake, tearing the roof off the hotel, wiping out two lumber yards, wrecking the drug store, and blowing a whole freight train off the track.

25

1930: A destructive hailstorm burst over Lumsden, NL, panicking the citizens of the tiny Trinity Bay fishing community. Three men drowned as their boat sank, battered by huge hailstones or by lightning. Thirty boats anchored in the harbour went down in the storm. Eyewitnesses pegged the weight of conglomerates of ice at 4 kg.

26

1931: A bolt of lightning struck a home in North Vancouver, BC. The electric charge travelled down the side of the house and tore a large hole in the ground. The electric meter and basement windows vanished without a trace. But most mysterious of all was the disappearance of the copper wiring in one circuit, the rubber insulation of which showed no trace of char or burn.

27

2001: A construction crew setting up a crane to do maintenance on the Champlain Bridge in Montreal, QC, watched in horror as strong gusty winds toppled the structure 30 m over a guardrail, taking two workers with it into the St. Lawrence River. One man inside the cabin of the crane managed to free himself. The other victim, walking beside the crane, fell into 6 m of water and drowned.

28

Last Quarter 

2003: A violent thunderstorm packing wind gusts of 140 km/h struck Belle River, ON. The storm downed trees, knocking out power for several hours, dumped marble-size hail, and caused flooding in some areas. The winds bent a solid steel flag pole over like the stem of a flower and overturned lawn furniture.

29

2003: A fierce microburst destroyed parts of Grimshaw, AB. The tiny but mighty storm ripped up trees, moved a large building, destroyed the town's arena, and blew the windows out of every building on Main Street. The same storm system struck west of Banff, in Kootenay National Park, felling spruce trees and killing 2 little girls hiking in the mountains with their parents.

30

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July 2005

AUGUST						
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1888: In a story published in the Montreal Star: "... a party of immigrants reaching Winnipeg (MB) on Dominion Day (Canada Day) were astonished to find about a foot of snow on the ground. This was of course a freak, but it shocked the settlers, for they turned right around and started back east by the next train without waiting a day to see the snow wiped away again."</p> <p>Canada Day</p>	<p>1909: Lightning struck within a metre of a man and a teenage boy near the exhibition grounds in Edmonton, AB, shattering a telegraph pole and striking both victims unconscious. The blast threw the man a few metres into the air. He was badly burned about the neck and chest, and assumed dead, when, 45 minutes later, came a faint flickering of the eyelids followed by groans of anguish.</p>
<p>2003: The day was hot and humid across New Brunswick. Late in the afternoon, a thunderstorm brought funnel clouds and hail. Lightning struck a transmission line just south of Newcastle, knocking out electricity to 100,000 customers. Environment Canada said it was a "micro burst"—small bursts of wind a few hundred metres wide but packing tornadic strength winds.</p>	<p>1939: Between Lampman, SK, and the US-Canada border, a 15-minute hailstorm, described as the worst in living memory, flattened crops, smashed windows, damaged buildings, and killed hundreds of turkeys. So much glass was broken in the region that shipments of glass were rushed in. Hail smashed all 200 panes in the hospital, and every pane on the west side of all buildings.</p>	<p>1939: A furious wind and rain storm struck parts of Winnipeg, MB. The Conklin Show was in town and suffered extensive damage. Flying timbers and tents created a minor panic among employees. The wind moved a row of Ferris wheels and a motorcycle ride called the Globe of Death more than 2 m. A crew of 300 men immediately began repairing the damage to prepare for the next day's visitors.</p> <p>Aphelion 01:00 EDT</p>	<p>1936: Full barrels of gasoline, missing 2 days from a farm near Smiley, SK, following a killer tornado, were found more than 3 km from the touchdown. The twister also carried a farmer's house 2 km before it was thrown down in a field. Other wreckage included a large barn, 2 machine sheds, 9 metal granaries, and several engines and separators.</p> <p>New Moon</p>	<p>2003: On his approach to Toronto Island Airport, ON, a private pilot from Chicago died when his plane dove into Lake Ontario. At the time, visibility was limited in haze, fog, and occasional rain. The poor weather created problems for searchers. The pilot survived the initial impact but was stunned and drowned while attempting to escape his rapidly-sinking plane.</p>	<p>2003: A mini-tornado split trees and lifted several buildings off their foundations when it whipped through a farm at Ste-Jeanne-d'Arc, QC, in the Lac St. Jean region. The weak F-0 tornado packed winds of 120 km/h.</p>	<p>1926: Lightning struck the chimney of the Orange Hall in Rednersville, ON, instantly killing a father and son and injuring 30 others. The son had just been initiated into the Orange Lodge when a terrific bolt of lightning hit. Remarkably, the tather and son were sitting on opposite sides of the room, 10 m apart, when they were struck simultaneously. Not a mark of any kind was found on them.</p>
<p>1977: A thunderstorm dumped up to 75 mm of rain in some areas of southern Saskatchewan, causing extensive damage in several communities. In Frankslake, a twister tore off roofs, uprooted a tree, and ripped down fences. At Wood Mountain Regional Park, the rain shortened a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of Sioux Chief Sitting Bull's arrival in Canada.</p>	<p>1978: Across Edmonton, a deluge dropped up to 90 mm of rain in 18 hours, causing huge water problems. Small cars floated in a metre of muddy water. One motorcyclist disappeared under water when the puddle he was driving through turned out to be deeper than he expected. He emerged sputtering, pulled his stalled cycle to the sidewalk and calmly emptied his cowboy boots.</p>	<p>1920: A cloudburst at Cache Creek, BC, generated a wall of water 2 m high on the Thompson River, sweeping away several houses, barns, trees, and any other movable object. The raging torrent demolished a government road camp and post office and damaged an Indian rancherie.</p>	<p>2003: A massive storm system packing golf-ball-size hailstones and fierce winds ravaged wheat crops and damaged property across south-central Saskatchewan. The worst of the storm missed Saskatoon, but even there, winds gusted to 70 km/h and 60 mm of rain fell in less than 30 minutes. In North Battleford, wind gusts around 120 km/h peeled back roofs.</p> <p>First Quarter</p>	<p>2003: This was the second day of powerful thunderstorms in southern Manitoba. A medium-strength tornado struck Gretna, levelling crops, blowing over equipment sheds and garages, and knocking down hydro poles. Near Altona, a 10-minute hailer pummelled the area with softball-size stones, causing millions of dollars in damage to crops, buildings, and vehicles. It looked like winter.</p>	<p>1885: A steamer sailing from Halifax to Yarmouth struck the south point of Gull Rock, NS, during a fierce storm. Passengers found it difficult to avoid talling spars and rigging as the vessel began breaking up. Passengers boarded lifeboats and all landed safely, but what a motley group—shoeless, some with only their night clothes on or wrapped in blankets from their berths.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz On average, how long will a molecule of water stay in the atmosphere before precipitating back to Earth? 1) one day 2) one week 3) 10 days 4) one month 5) a year (Answer on inside back cover)</p>

1903: The Anglo-Klondike Mining Company on lower Bonanza Creek, YT, shut down its hydraulic plant a week ago. Along the creeks in Dawson, YT, miners prayed for rain to end the drought. Raintall totals for the past 4 months were less than 30% of normal. Because of very low stream flow, workers were laid off on a number of claims, and several more claims were about to be closed.

17

1902: A father tried to reach his farmhouse in Chesterville, ON, to warn his family about the coming tornado. The storm outran him and flying timbers broke his leg. He came to in a field with his dead son beside him. The tornado had picked up his family and dashed them against a fence. His wife died but 2 other children were found alive with broken limbs and badly bruised.

18

1927: A violent thunderstorm, accompanied by heavy rain, struck Drumheller, AB. In a freak incident, a bolt of lightning entered a residence by the window and split a pencil, after going through a layer of paper about 75 mm thick. The paper was set on fire but was soon extinguished with no further damage.

19

2003: During a soccer tournament in Fredericton, NB, lightning struck and instantly killed a 14-year-old female player from Maine, USA. The blast threw the teenager more than a metre into the air; she came down in a rumple. More than 20 others were injured or dazed and taken to hospital. Eyewitnesses said the thunder and lightning occurred at the same time.

20

1931: Two 60-kg Alaskan black bears and several dozen citizens of the historic town of Falls Creek, BC, fought a 2-hour battle on Main Street. The end result was 1 bear killed, the other recaptured, and 4 men slapped and severely clawed. Earlier, the bears, crazed by temperatures above 38°C, had broken from captivity and run wild through the streets as women and children fled for cover.

21

Full Moon 

1920: A terrific cyclone struck Alameda, SK, injuring several people. The local schoolhouse was torn to matchwood and scattered for kilometres. The storm blew a large threshing outfit 200 m away; killed 12 horses, several head of cattle, and dozens of poultry; and stripped the hair from 16 horses. The body of a 4-year-old was found in a field about a kilometre from home.

22

2003: A bank of coastal fog persisted in parts of the Maritimes during most of July. At times visibility was so poor in Halifax, NS, that the tourist boat *Theodore Too* was tied up at the wharf, unable to run tours. Onshore fog also interfered with outdoor activities. The offshore fogbank resulted from warm tropical air passing over the cold waters of the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Ocean.

23

2003: A sudden rainstorm drenched some of the 18,438 spectators at the Toronto, ON, SkyDome during the sixth inning of a Blue Jays–White Sox game, causing a 26-minute delay, the longest ever at the SkyDome.

24

2003: Tinder-dry conditions in the Crowsnest Pass, AB, brought on by scorching temperatures, low humidity, blazing sunshine, and shifting winds kept wildfires burning out-of-control for most of the summer. The flames exceeded 1,000°C, melting anything metallic in their way. Eventually, the fires drove more than 2,000 people from their homes, up to three times.

25

1898: One of the worst storms in memory struck Ottawa and parts of Eastern Ontario. Just before 3 PM, massive, black clouds rolled into the city. For 20 minutes the cyclone (tornado) raged, ripping boards and shingles from buildings and uprooting trees, and blowing down fences. Winds tore a piece of slate roofing about 4 m long from the House of Commons.

26

1921: A thunderstorm broke out across the Maritimes. The storm featured numerous flashes of vivid lightning accompanied by heavy peals of thunder and showers of rain. One bolt of lightning entered a house at Fergusons Cove, NS, and carried away the slats of the owner's bed. The occupant was left lying on the floor, uninjured but considerably shaken up.

27

1941: When members of the yacht club in Sarnia, ON, arose in the morning, they rubbed their eyes to make certain they weren't seeing things—it was a classic "set-up and seiche." Winds and lower pressures had pushed the water in Lake Huron away from shore, leaving yachts and cruisers in the southern end of the lake high and dry.

28

Last Quarter 

1898: Lightning killed a young farmhand near Almonte, ON. He was walking to afternoon tea when a single bolt of lightning hit him. A queer thing: his straw hat was literally torn to pieces, but the marks on the right side of his head were scarcely discernible. The current passed through his body, melted some of the silver in his watch, and passed through his foot, cutting his boot to pieces.

29

2003: At Downsview Park in north Toronto, ON, paramedics cared for 3,000 people attending the Stones/SARS Concert on a hot day. Health care workers treated dozens of minor heat-related illnesses such as headaches, sunburn, sun stroke, dehydration, and nausea. Another 25 more serious cases—chest pains, shortness of breath, and asthma—were treated at area hospitals.

30

31 **2002:** At only 9.4°C it was the lowest daytime high for the last day of July in Edmonton, AB. Complaining earlier about the hot and dry, Edmontonians were now cursing the cold and wet.

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August 2005

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1908: Hailstones the size of hen's eggs smashed windows in nearly every building in Edmonton, AB. At one hotel, hail penetrated the roof and water poured down in torrents, ruining carpets, bedding, and furniture. A man battered by the storm escaped to a nearby pigpen for shelter. The pig objected and forced him out, so he covered his head in a coal bucket and ran to a nearby car.</p> <p>Civic Holiday</p>	<p>2003: Thousands braved the rain at the annual Caribana parade in Toronto, ON. Said one celebrant: "Weather doesn't stop West Indians from having fun." But the weekend rain definitely dampened the festival's attendance. Some of the visitors stayed in their hotel rooms instead of venturing out. The weekend thunderstorms cut parade attendance to 600,000 from the usual one million.</p>	<p>2003: Going into 2003, southwestern BC was experiencing its worst drought in 100 years and its driest 3-year period on record. In Kamloops, temperatures rose above 30°C on 19 days in July and on 20 days in August; normal for each month is 11. Kelowna recorded its driest June-July-August period since records began in 1899 and set a record with 44 consecutive rain-free days.</p>	<p>2003: Stalled storms soaked Quebec's Eastern Townships with 160 mm of rain in just 5 hours, although the greatest amounts fell in a short 30-minute period. The village of Tingwick was the hardest hit, losing more than half of its bridges, several culverts, and countless trees. Floodwaters reached second-floor windows, some homes simply vanished, and hundreds fled in the dark.</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>2003: Another year of drought stressed prairie farmers and ranchers already suffering from agricultural trade wars and the mad cow crisis. Torrid heat, scanty rains, and a plague of grasshoppers destroyed any chance of a bumper crop. Besides the grasshoppers, other insects (aphids, flea beetles, saw flies, diamondback moth larva, bertha army worms, and Lygus bugs) ate what crop remained.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz Lake Vostok is the Earth's fourth largest lake. What is unique about this lake? 1) the lake is now dry most of the year 2) formed by a meteor that crashed into the Earth 3) it is an inland salt-water lake fed by freshwater streams 4) no one has ever seen it 5) it is on the lost continent of Atlantis (Answers on inside back cover)</p>
<p>2003: A huge downburst caused a flash flood in Mississauga, ON, putting a stretch of expressway under a metre of water. The water, flowing down the road at about 30 km/h, entered cars through side windows. Police officers responding to a robbery were forced to help motorists stranded by onrushing torrents. The rains washed out an embankment and fence.</p>	<p>2003: Manitoba paramedics transporting a patient to Neepawa Hospital came across a "tornado." Winds lifted the ambulance off the ground and dropped it on the other side of the highway. Environment Canada reported no tornadoes, only fierce gusts of wind of more than 100 km/h. Unconvinced, the paramedics said the wind was swirling like a blender and, besides, they saw a 6-m tree fly by.</p>	<p>2003: A weather system entrenched over the Maritimes during early August brought near-continuous showers to the region. It meant that farmers couldn't harvest a second crop of hay. Vegetable producers in the Annapolis Valley, NS, watched heads of lettuce swell and explode, and cucumbers grow too big to sell. The damp weather also swelled covers and book pages in bookstores.</p>	<p>1900: Two young boys from Bonne-Esperance, northern Quebec, went out in a row boat and were caught in a dense fog. Unable to make their way back to shore, five days passed before the 12-year-old made it to shore. He explained that when the fog cleared, their boat was 90 km from home, surrounded by ice. He eventually set a small sail and made land. His 8-year-old brother died of exposure.</p>	<p>2003: Tornadoes near Kindersley-Rosetown, SK, shredded a steel-walled Quonset, twice. At 9:30 PM, the front and back walls of the shed were torn off and then at midnight a second twister peeled off its roof. The bin looked like someone took a can opener to it. Fierce winds also damaged a cattle corral and scattered debris everywhere.</p>	<p>2003: The Crowsnest Pass forest fires produced thick smoke, ash, and haze over southern and central Alberta. Those with respiratory conditions were warned, but even healthy people were told to curtain outdoor activities. Many complained of eye irritation, itching, redness, wheezing, and shortness of breath. In 3 days, the air quality index rose to 122. Anything above 100 is very poor.</p> <p>First Quarter ●</p>	<p>2003: A heat wave gripped the prairies. Val Marie, SK, endured 16 consecutive days above 30°C. In Winnipeg, the heat cooked garbage in overflowing garbage bins. Near Dauphin, in the town's first summer curling bonspiel, curlers wore shorts and tank tops. In Saskatoon, one baker said it was almost impossible to make croissants because the butter was melting before you could shape them.</p>
<p>1916: During an afternoon thundershower in Truro, NS, hail fell in such quantities that newspaper carriers, while waiting for delivery of their daily newspapers, made snowballs some 10 cm in diameter. What ensued was a battle royal, much to the amusement of onlookers.</p>	<p>1932: Vancouver, BC, sees far fewer lightning strikes than most Canadian cities, averaging 6 thunderstorm days a year. On this date, Vancouver had 12 hours of the most spectacular lightning in years. At times, the sun shone brightly through magnificent clouds, as thunder roared, lightning flashed, and rain fell. The lightning, at times, gave the mountains the appearance of erupting volcanoes.</p> <p>Discovery Day (Yukon)</p>	<p>2003: The BC government issued a warning for prowling bears. A hot, dry summer and forest fires increased the chance of run-ins with bears seeking food. Preparing to hibernate, the bears became more aggressive in their search. Residents were advised to keep garbage under wraps, burn barbecue residue, feed their pets inside, and pick ripe fruit immediately.</p>	<p>1935: In Victoria Beach, MB, lightning struck an elderly woman, burning her 5 cm above the heart. The bolt hit a large birch tree, jumped to a metal clothesline connected to the house, and darted along the eaves trough, into the building. It then travelled through the couch on which the woman lay, burning holes in the mattress and welding the sofa's metal springs.</p>	<p>1991: A severe hailstorm swept the country south of Calgary, AB, inflicting extensive damage. It was the worst storm in the section in living memory. The stones were enormous and broke the necks of many chickens. All windows exposed to the storm were shattered. Many houses were left without a single pane of glass. The next day, scarcely a team set out without carrying a load of glass.</p>	<p>1999: Before a thunderstorm broke over Winnipeg, MB, the city was hit by a sudden influx of fish flies, brought from afar by rising air currents. The insects were soon a nuisance as they swarmed brightly lit windows. If Winnipeggers objected to their presence, thousands of migrating nighthawks welcomed the opportunity for an easy meal, gorging themselves in the process.</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p>2003: Interior BC rivers were never lower, prompting federal fisheries experts to urge water conservation. Some streams were flowing with less than 16% of their usual flow. Low water levels can be lethal for fish, denying them passage and increasing the presence of natural parasites. In Vancouver, the rainfall over the past four months was less than half the usual amount.</p>

1899: A 5-day heat wave, with temperatures of 33°C, gripped Ottawa, ON. People sat in the shade of doorways and verandas. At 10 AM, crowds flocked to Rockcliffe, Victoria, and Queen's Parks to catch anything that felt like a cool breeze. At Rockcliffe, about 4,000 people sought relief at the beach. Strange to say, there were no serious cases of heat prostration.

21

2003: Powerful winds sent flames racing toward Kelowna, BC. The fire levelled 250 homes and prompted the evacuation of a third of Kelowna's population. More than 50,000 BC residents were evacuated from the danger of flames and smoke in 2003—the second largest evacuation in Canadian history and likely the second largest insurance loss in Canadian history.

22

1975: A storm dumped 80 mm of rain in 10 hours on St. John's, NL, causing extensive flooding. Heavy winds and high seas played havoc with small boats moored in Long Pond and led to the cancellation of the Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club's annual centennial race. In the city, roads were washed out and gusting winds lifted the roof from a two-storey dwelling.

23

1939: Following a rainstorm in Ottawa, ON, workers waded in water 30 cm deep on the ground floor of the House of Commons to open drains and mop the floors. During hot weather, Members complain that because of a noisy ventilation system, they cannot hear what is being said in the front-benches. So when the weather warms, Members rush to prorogue, that is, to end the legislative session.

24

2003: An attempt to create the world's biggest hug fell short in Pouch Cove, NL. They needed more than 4,703 people participating to break the current world's record. They got 69. Organizers said the weather worked against them when light rain began to fall just before the designated hugging hour. Next year they might try again or try for the world's largest pillow fight.

25

1986: More than 70 mm of rain fell in Toronto, ON, helping to make it the second wettest August on record. The "Ravine Lady" spent 4 hours perched in a tree after water flooded her makeshift shelter of 3 years. Having already survived one flood, an eviction by the city, and the burning of her abode by vandals, the 44-year-old peace activist said she would not give up her unique existence.

26

1938: Lightning played freakish tricks on 2 government employees engaged in survey work on the shore of Lake Wallace, MB. Both men were struck by a bolt of lightning while in a tent, and rendered unconscious. Lightning hit the roots of a tree just outside the tent. All their chest hairs were burned. Images of root branches were etched on one man's body.

27

Last Quarter 

1990: A family of tornadoes touched down near London, ON, causing 15 injuries and substantial damage. The storm destroyed most of the town of Frome. One resident reported seeing 4 seagulls flying by at about "400 mph." In a two-storey, antique-filled heritage home featured in *Canada Century Home* magazine, water and wind damage ruined lavish oriental carpets.

28

1893: A gale caused 56 shipwrecks in Cow Bay, NS, and killed a ship's pilot. The winds also blew the steeple off a church and damaged several houses and orchards. Much of the province felt the wrath of this storm with winds peaking at 175 km/h.

29

1999: In the early afternoon, residents of Wallace, NS, spotted a funnel cloud. More big black clouds rolled in and heavy rains began to fall. Ominously, the funnel began twisting and lowering like a tornado, but never did touch the ground. Said one resident, "Compared to what I saw in Texas, this one was just a little child."

30

1937: In southern Ontario, two London & Port Stanley railway cars crashed head-on in thick fog. Incredibly, not one window was broken and no one was seriously hurt. Apparently, the trains' drawbars were lined up perfectly and absorbed most of the shock of the crash. [from *Canadian Railway Telegraph History Book* by Robert Burnet]

31

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September 2005

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<div>1938: On the last day of August, a fierce storm with powerful winds and copious rains close to 100 mm struck the Quebec Zoological Gardens at Charlesbourg, QC. Two seals, exotic birds, and dozens of captive trout disappeared as winds tore at the zoo. Several small animals drowned, fish tanks overflowed, and dazed birds disappeared into the dark.</div> <div>1</div>	<div>1912: Bright skies and strong drying winds made for perfect harvest weather across the Canadian prairies. The whir of the binder was heard all Labour Day weekend after a week of damp weather. However, the problem was finding labour. Practically every young man locally had been drafted for the War. To help out, many harvest trains arrived daily from the East.</div> <div>2</div>	<div>1912: Eyewitnesses to yesterday's fierce cyclone at Zenda, ON, said that the first gust of wind seemed to lift the Methodist Church off its foundation. The wind tore off large patches of slate roofing, broke the stained-glass windows, and crumbled ceiling and wall plaster. Of the many vehicles under the shed, 11 buggies, many of them almost new, were destroyed.</div> <div>New Moon</div> <div></div>
<div>1899: A squall struck a sailboat in Halifax Harbour, NS. The wind lifted the mast and as it fell back into its pocket, the mast punched a hole in the boat bottom. Immediately, the boat filled with water, overwhelming its occupants. Courageous efforts were made to save the passengers, but of the 11 people aboard, 7 drowned.</div> <div>4</div>	<div>1978: Hurricane Ella was centred 490 km south of Halifax, NS, when its wind velocity peaked at 225 km/hr. In North Sydney, the ferry <i>Ambrose Shea</i>, loaded with 3,000 passengers, delayed departure for Argentia, NL, to allow the huge storm to pass. The Newfoundland schooner <i>Swile</i>, with a crew of 2, was lost in the storm and never found.</div> <div>5</div> <div>Labour Day</div>	<div>1985: A merchant at a marina in Lindsay, ON, observed trees and fences disappearing on his neighbour's property, and boats spinning past his building during a twister, which also pulled hay straight up into the air. At their strongest, the winds tossed a 900-kg trailer about 9 m over a car and dropped it in a ditch. About 10 boats in dry-dock were sent spinning.</div> <div>6</div>	<div>1890: A Mountie patrol boat, the <i>Keewatin</i>, was on tour of Lake Winnipeg, MB, cruising for illegal liquor, when a vicious storm broke the anchor chain, setting the vessel adrift. Two of the three crewmen drowned. The captain lashed himself to the boat and slipped into unconsciousness. When rescued 13 days later, incredibly, he was still alive, but he died a few days later.</div> <div>7</div>	<div>2003: Three Israelis, wearing shorts and shirts, sailed from Halifax, NS, into 140-km/h winds and 21-m seas of Hurricane Fabian on the Grand Banks, despite warnings from the Canadian Hurricane Centre. Their bodies were recovered 1,000 kilometres east of Halifax. Had they been wearing immersion suits, designed to keep people alive in cold water, they would likely have survived.</div> <div>8</div>	<div>1969: Fast-moving Hurricane Gerda slammed into the Maritimes, bringing down trees, tearing shingles from roofs, knocking out power lines, and creating havoc with shipping and airline schedules. The storm's eye came within 150 km west of Yarmouth, NS. It packed winds of 138 km/h with heavy rains. Nova Scotia's south shore was hardest hit at high tide.</div> <div>9</div>	<div>2003: Was it a sonic boom, a dynamite blast, or an asteroid hitting the earth? A powerful blast shook Nanaimo, BC, around 1 PM, and was heard and felt 25 km away. An astronomer at the University of Victoria said current weather conditions with overcast skies were nearly perfect for sound waves to refract and be heard some distance from the source—likely an exploding meteor.</div> <div>10</div>
<div>1931: Five Scottish adventurers seeking riches from the fur trade sailed to Frobisher Bay (Iqaluit), NU, in the summer of 1930. There, their motor failed, and their vessel was dashed to pieces on the rocks. They found refuge in an abandoned Inuit camp and barely survived on a steady diet of walrus meat. The five were eventually rescued in December by Aboriginal hunters.</div> <div>11</div> <div>First Quarter</div> <div></div>	<div>1900: About midnight a terrific gale struck St. Catharines, ON. Streets were strewn with trees and foliage. In the Niagara orchards, peaches were badly bruised, about half of the winter apples were knocked down, and tonnes of pears and plums lay on the ground, useless. The winds also swept a worker at the Niagara Falls waterworks into the flume and down the penstock.</div> <div>12</div>	<div>1962: A vicious electrical storm, packing 120 km/h winds, lightning, and 25 mm of rain in 20 minutes, widespread damage. Rising waters trapped motorists stalled in submerged underpasses. The storm left large sections of the city without hydro when lightning struck transformers and winds blew trees across power lines.</div> <div>13</div>	<div>1818: The first recorded wreck at Long Point, ON, was the schooner <i>Young Phoenix</i>, bound for Port Talbot, ON, from Buffalo, NY, with a group of Irish immigrants on board. All made it safely to shore, but the vessel sank in 35 m of water with all their earthly possessions. Stranded on dunes, the passengers and crew waved frantically at every passing ship and were eventually rescued.</div> <div>14</div>	<div>2003: BC's Premier Campbell lifted the province-wide state of emergency, in effect since 2 August due to raging forest fires. Continuous rains and cool weather allowed crews to push deeper inside a fire's perimeter to mop up hot spots. At the resort Village of Sun Peaks, near Kamloops, there was glee when snow fell on the mountains.</div> <div>15</div>	<div>2003: A late-summer heat wave gripped most of Atlantic Canada. In Newfoundland, some schools sent students home early, and others held classes outside when temperatures soared above 30°C. Temperatures in Gander exceeded 27°C on 5 consecutive days. Previously it had never gotten to 25°C or higher on more than 4 days during the month of September.</div> <div>16</div>	<div>1932: Gale-force winds whipped across BC's Lower Mainland, forcing Fraser River fishers to seek shelter. The wind stirred the waters of English Bay into white caps. At Vancouver, the fire department received a rash of calls as a result of flying chimney sparks. Winds swept through city streets, banging doors, rattling windows, and playing mischievous tricks in gardens.</div> <div>17</div> <div>Full Moon</div> <div></div>

2003: Groundhog handlers found 2 of Wiarton's weather prognosticating albino groundhogs dead in their pen. Last year, new digs costing \$20,000 were built to house the 3 marmots. However, design problems led to the deaths of 2. Dampness in the new tunnel likely made it difficult for the hogs to preserve their body heat during winter, resulting in hypothermia.

18

2003: The remnants of Hurricane Isabel raced through southwestern Ontario, bringing rain and strong winds. The storm moved so fast, they didn't get as much rain as predicted. Some thought the storm was a complete washout. Although it was a drizzle compared to Hazel's wrath in 1954, which dumped over 150 mm of rain, Isabel's winds blew down trees and interrupted power momentarily.

19

Weather Quiz
What is it about tornadoes that concerns most Canadians?
1) destructive and damaging nature
2) personal safety and injury
3) hydro outages
4) loss of vehicles and transportation tie-ups
5) house damage
(Answer on inside back cover)

20

2002: Arctic air descended over Alberta and Saskatchewan late in the day, plunging temperatures to lows of 0°C to -6°C, with clear skies and light winds. Some late-seeded crops that hadn't completely ripened were damaged. Given what happened to the crop this year, from drought to grasshopper plagues, and now frost, it was the worst harvest year in Alberta's history.

21

1934: A terrific 100-km/h gale, one of the worst Squamish storms in the history of Horseshoe Bay, BC, struck without warning. Nine persons, including two women and two children lost their lives in the storm. Boats of all kinds were blown ashore and pounded unmercifully by the relentless 3-m waves. The storm also took out trees, telephone poles, and signboards.

22

1930: Winnipeg was virtually swallowed up in a day-long dust storm, much to the discomfiture of citizens. At times, thick clouds of dust obscured the sun from view. The winds didn't cause much damage, just shook a few awnings, shifted a few objects, made scary shrilling sounds around buildings, and strummed telephone and trolley wires.

23

1907: The old men described the storm as the worst in Bonavista, NL, in the past 40 years. One report stated: "...sometimes we read about a vessel being driven on the rocks and beaten into matchwood, and regard it as a figure of speech. In the case of the *Snorre*, that is what actually happened." What had been a well-built vessel was reduced to a few wagon-loads of firewood.

24

Autumn Equinox 18:23 EDT

1983: There wasn't a Yukon community that didn't break low-temperature records as arctic air gripped the north. One record, which had stood at -11.1°C since 1908 in Dawson City, was relegated to obscurity when the temperature reached -23.2°C. Many trucks were still hauling gravel and had not been refitted for the winter, preventing a quick response to the winter weather.

25

2003: A hot-air balloon adventurer, David Hempleman-Adams, took off from Sussex, NB, and landed in Blackpool, England, 3 days later. He became the first person to ever cross the Atlantic in an old-style, wicker-basket balloon. Shortly after takeoff, he encountered lightning, snow, and bone-chilling temperatures. In the final hours of the flight, he endured hail, snow, and thick clouds.

26

1998: Following 5 days of rain, a landslide engulfed a neighbourhood in Hull, QC. A 2-m-high stone wall and 15 m of roadway at the foot of Albert Street slumped with a roar that caused many people to think of an earthquake. About a dozen boys were playing at the bottom of the hill 10 minutes before the landslide, but nobody was killed or injured.

27

2003: Weather warnings had been issued for at least 2 days, when, at 12:40 AM ADT on the 29th, Hurricane Juan made landfall at Halifax, NS. One of the most damaging storms in modern Halifax history, Juan delivered grief and misfortune to Nova Scotians. However, one man who was purchasing batteries just before the storm hit also bought an Atlantic lottery ticket and won \$1 million.

28

2003: In Prince Edward Island, even the full brunt of Hurricane Juan didn't dissuade residents from voting in their provincial election. Though half of the households were without power and many streets were clogged with fallen tree branches, 83% of eligible voters still cast their ballots! At some blacked-out polling stations, votes were counted by candlelight and kerosene lamp.

29

1996: Scientists with the Canadian Wildlife Service reported extreme weather had decimated the caribou population on Bathurst Island in the high arctic. Not a single newborn calf was found. Most of the caribou died frozen stiff, stranded in deep snow, leaning against each other like statues knocked over by the wind. The snow had hardened around their bellies, keeping some upright.

30

SEPTEMBER

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2005

NOVEMBER

				1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1932: Grain-laden and Europe-bound from Churchill, MB, the British steamer <i>Bright Fan</i> sank after hitting an iceberg in Hudson Strait. The crew of 30 took to lifeboats and were picked up 2 hours later by a government patrol boat. Federal officials felt the sinking would be a death blow to the shipping route because marine insurance rates would be prohibitive.
2003: According to Environment Canada meteorologist Wade Szilagyi, a record number of waterspouts (tornadoes over water) occurred over the Great Lakes. It was the largest outbreak ever recorded—an unbelievable 66+ waterspouts. The oddity was attributed to above-normal lake temperatures and a cold air mass, which remained entrenched over the Great Lakes for a week.	1922: It was unusually cold in Edmonton, AB, with below-freezing temperatures, but it was especially cold at the police station. Prisoners were wrapped in blankets. The station's basement and furnace room were stacked to the ceiling with cases and barrels of "real" beer. The police had been ordered not to light the furnace, lest it spoil the beer, which was evidence in a case.	1982: Whitehorse, YT, recorded a rare thunderstorm with a shower of ice pellets and snow amounting to 5 cm. The slippery white stuff caught several drivers by surprise when they skidded around corners still on summer tires. The early snows also stopped work at a few construction sites.	Weather Quiz What is considered the most important advance in weather forecasting in the past 200 years? 1) telegraph 2) Doppler radar 3) satellite 4) computer 5) radiometer <i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i>	2003: Hurricane Kate passed south of Cape Race, NL, packing maximum sustained winds of 120 km/h and generating waves 10 metres high. The storm soaked St. John's with 45.2 mm of rain, setting a single-day October record for rainfall. The threat of landfall cancelled the arrival of the <i>MS Prisendam</i> , a cruise ship that was scheduled to bring 600 passengers and 400 crew into St. John's.	2003: Golf course attendance soared in Winnipeg, MB, along with day-time temperatures to 27°C; normal is 12°C. At Gretna, MB, the maximum temperature of 29°C eclipsed the previous record; Morden, MB, was the province's hot spot at 30°C. Manitoba's chief medical officer of health said the week's high temperatures should revive any mosquitoes still flitting about.	1997: After an early-morning storm, BC Hydro crews scrambled to restore electricity to 5,000 customers in Greater Victoria. The storm blew down a giant Garry oak tree into an apartment building parking lot. For one tenant, it was a dream come true because he carves oak and he envisaged a new project from the downed tree—a set of replica hand tools.
	New Moon	Rosh Hashanah Begins				
1989: The Calgary area was blasted by blowing dust in near-zero visibilities. Winds gusting to 117 km/h exposed precious top-soil and transported it great distances. During the storm, a new Cadillac Deville valued at \$50,000 was "thrown like a kite." The winds turned over trailers, flipped light airplanes, downed trees and power lines, and tossed a litter of 10 dogs through the air.	1998: Worsening weather with gale-force winds slowed recovery of the wreckage of Swissair Flight 111, which crashed 10 km southwest of Peggy's Cove, NS, on 2 September, en route from New York to Geneva, Switzerland. The 4-m swells and high winds slowed officials from moving a barge with its 100-tonne crane to the crash site before winter arrived.	1986: A storm smashed the plate glass window of a crockery store in downtown Ottawa, ON. The wind caught the awning, raising it up with such force that one of the iron supports bent in two and crashed through the pane. Fortunately, the proprietor had just removed a display of valuable china from the window, replacing it with soap. The product loss was \$12.	1989: A severe thunderstorm struck downtown Toronto with wind gusts peaking at 124 km/h. The winds generated huge dust clouds, which swept around pedestrians at Harbourfront and engulfed cars on the jammed Gardiner Expressway. In Cobourg, ON, a waterspout suddenly dropped water levels in Lake Ontario by 1.2 m, giving people an extra 10 m of beach for about 30 minutes.	1972: A freak storm dumped 12 cm of snow in northern Nova Scotia. Without snow tires, many motorists found themselves either stalled, slowed to a snail's pace, or in a ditch. At the Nappan weather station, where records have been kept since 1914, the storm marked the earliest and the heaviest snowfall for the month of October on record—10 days earlier than the previous record.	2003: At harvest time, warm, dry, sunny, frost-free weather significantly improved the crop outlook across the west. Over 80% of the grain was harvested by the first week in September—a big improvement over 2002 when only two-thirds of the crop was in by Thanksgiving. Moreover, perfect weather meant that the spring wheat crop ranked among the best quality in recent history.	2003: A huge storm tracked across eastern Canada. In Ottawa, ON, patio furniture made flight, umbrellas turned inside out, and pedestrians struggled for balance. In Quebec, up to 60 mm of rain and wind gusting to 85 km/h knocked out hydro to 50,000 customers. A garbage bin near the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, QC, was filled with broken umbrellas, attesting to the storm's strength.
	Thanksgiving	First Quarter		Yom Kippur		

2003: A huge storm, dubbed the Pineapple Express, brought cargoes of moisture from the tropical Pacific, soaking the BC coast with record rainfalls. The raging waters washed soil and trees down slopes left bare by earlier wildfires. The steady, intense downpour (as much as 600 mm in 4 days) was perhaps the heaviest deluge to strike the west coast in more than 200 years.

16

1938: In Fort Francis, ON, a gentle rainfall brought under control a raging inferno that earlier had claimed 17 lives and caused extensive property damage. Firefighters took no chances, staying on the job in case of shifting winds. In Manitoba, rain and snow also ended fires in the Riding Mountain area. Farmers were the big losers when their hay and cordwood went up in smoke.

17

2003: The 14th Annual Banff (AB) Mountain Ekiden Run took place under gale-force winds that literally stopped runners in some places. Running into the wind, up steep paths and roads, exhausted many of the 800 runners in the 5-person relay marathon. Many runners' faces were covered in bubbly spit from excessive panting.

18

1976: A severe fall storm crossed the Grand Banks and southeastern Newfoundland. Wind gusted to 140 km/h at St. John's, lifted roofs off buildings, and crushed cars beneath fallen trees. At Cape Race, a Canadian Forces para-rescue specialist dangled for 43 minutes above raging seas, in 130 km/h winds. He was trying to rescue a survivor of the Dutch ship *Gabriella*.

19

1974: In Cape Breton Island, NS, fierce wind gusts of 160 km/h led to the death of 4 people. The winds tore off roofs, toppled barns, and disintegrated trailers. In the Sydney area, the storm damaged 1,500 homes and ripped out entire trees. In New Waterford, wind blew 3 trailer homes over a cliff, into the ocean. The foul weather also set back restoration work at historic Louisbourg.

20

1933: Foul weather destroyed two vessels transporting tonnes of groceries, fuel, and other supplies in the ice-intested waters along the Arctic coast in the NWT. A fire onboard forced survivors to launch a lifeboat. In sub-zero weather and a terrible gale, the boat drifted for two days before reaching land. Three men, with four dogs set out for Cameron Bay but were forced back by the ice.

21

2003: Kelowna, BC—the city that came close to being burnt to the ground less than 2 months ago—now had too much water. A storm flooded homes and washed out roads. The soggy weather put a halt to the apple harvest in the Okanagan. When fruit is wet, it gets slippery and bungs against each other more, increasing the likelihood of bruising. Picking is also unsafe for farm workers.

22

2003: Officials reluctantly cancelled an NBA exhibition game in St. John's, NL, because the wood floor was too wet. Unusually humid, warm (15°C), and foggy weather, and hockey ice under the floor, made the court unplayable.

23

1933: As heavy rains swept across the Maritimes, the rising Big Salmon River, NB, swirled 7 loggers to their deaths on the final day of the log drive. The rising waters jumped 2 m in 90 minutes.

24

Last Quarter ○

30 **2003:** An Ottawa, ON, man was found guilty of animal cruelty for running his dog to death last summer when temperatures hit 34°C with a 42 humidex value.

31 **1949:** Residents of Haines Junction, YT, were busy shovelling 67.3 cm of snow from yesterday's snowfall, the greatest 1-day total ever from a Yukon station.

Halloween

1999: Residents of Prince George, BC, said it was a tornado. The wind was strong and there was such a huge roar, you couldn't hear anything. Then trees—some 30 m high and 1 m around—started falling, snapping like match sticks. Some trees fell on homes. The wind lifted roofs. Environment Canada could not confirm a tornado, but also could not rule it out.

25

1983: Described as the worst in memory, a powerful storm with near-hurricane-force winds battered Cape Breton Island, NS, causing power interruptions and property devastation. The storm sank or beached fishing boats, collapsed wharves, and damaged cottages and cabins. At South Ingonish Harbour the storm moved an old fish plant about 1 km and destroyed a lighthouse.

26

2003: Winds of 100 km/h and up to 10 cm of snow whipped across southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba in the winter's first snowfall. Ruts of ice on the highway pulled vehicles onto the wrong side of the road. In Regina, powerful winds pulled tie-downs right out of the ground, flipping a motorized glider. At the football stadium, winds blew over two concession tents.

27

2003: Fierce winds swept through parts of southern and central British Columbia, uprooting trees and causing widespread power outages. Some 108,000 BC Hydro customers lost service. At Prince George, winds peaked above 75 km/h, prompting authorities to close schools. Sustained winds reached 81 km/h at Vancouver Airport, forcing pedestrians to dodge flying debris and branches.

28

2003: A wicked fall storm hammered southern Alberta, snarling morning traffic and leaving motorists stranded. Later on, rain turned to freezing rain. About 10 cm of snow fell overnight, forcing the closure of several schools and stranding travellers north of Calgary. Maintenance crews sprayed roads with a new liquid calcium melting compound but strong winds blew it away.

29

Daylight Saving Time Ends

OCTOBER

1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31

DECEMBER

1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

November 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1956: For much of Nova Scotia, it was the hottest November day ever. In Halifax, the temperature soared to 23.3°C. The heat encouraged two co-eds from Dalhousie University to swim across the chilly 10°C waters of the North West Arm. Other Maritime towns also reported balmy temperatures: Moncton, 22°C; Fredericton, 21°C; and Charlottetown, 18°C.</p> <p>All Saints' Day New Moon ●</p>	<p>1999: An all-day rainstorm lashed the Niagara area in Ontario. Roadways turned into rivers and basements looked more like indoor pools. Flood waters also blocked all main intersections in Niagara Falls, causing cars to stall. At Port Dalhousie, a century-old tree fell over and squashed a car. The owner said he'd been hoping for the tree to be taken down, but not in this way.</p>	<p>1999: An intense fall storm with winds gusting to 90 km/h wreaked havoc in downtown Toronto, ON. Galloping conductors—a situation in which wires start blowing around and conductors bang into each other—shorted out many lines. At Toronto's downtown 9-hole golf course, powerful winds toppled a 25-m-high mesh curtain that keeps stray balls from braining passersby.</p>	<p>2003: A persistently cold northerly flow over much of British Columbia shattered dozens of low-temperature records. In the interior, it was the coldest start to November in years. At Kelowna, it was -13°C—about 5 degrees colder than it gets in January, the coldest time of the year, and cold enough for some vineyards to harvest ice-wine grapes.</p>	<p>2003: Despite the cold weather across Saskatchewan, voter turnout for the provincial election was high because of the intense media coverage of an interesting race. In Regina, citizens faced a high of -10°C following a day with up to 10 cm of snow. In Saskatoon, the high was -7°C, with a low of -17°C with flurries. About 68% of the province's 600,000 eligible voters cast ballots.</p>
<p>1937: An alkali blizzard white-washed the ground, buildings, and trees around Chaplin, SK, insulating antennae and in the process silencing a large number of radios. The alkali came from the chalky shores of Lake Chaplin. The air remained so heavy with the white powder that, during early evening, lights from vehicles cast a glare similar to that cast in winter blizzards.</p>	<p>2002: Axl Rose was supposedly stuck in Los Angeles when bad weather made it impossible for his plane to take off. That's why he didn't show up in Vancouver, BC, for a Guns N' Roses concert. Furious fans rioted when the band failed to show up. Foul weather in LA? Maybe! Winds were strong and it was the start of a 3-day storm that brought 59 mm of rain to downtown LA.</p>	<p>1999: In Fort Francis, ON, temperatures climbed to 22°C, shattering the previous record for the day at 16°C. In Winnipeg, MB, the temperature soared to 17.5°C, breaking a record that had stood for 76 years. More than 300 golf enthusiasts waited as long as 3 hours to tee off at one course. Not surprisingly, few would give their names or be photographed for local newspapers.</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1933: All day long snow fell in southern Ontario, making highway travel precarious in what was described as the worst early-winter blizzard in 20 years. When an inter-city bus lost control, it started down the Hamilton Mountain road, smashing its way through a guardrail and plunging 25 m down the mountainside. The impact threw 5 passengers and the driver through the windshield.</p>	<p>1996: More than 20 cm of snow in Ottawa kept electric railway sweepers busy clearing tracks. In sweeping the snow, the machines gathered quantities of mud because the ground was quite soft. Around the city, a few sleighs were out and about, but the wheel traffic cut up the unpaved street so much that sleighing in some places was almost impossible.</p>	<p>1933: Two partially-loaded cars and two empties blown off the CNR coal dock in Biggar, SK, coasted through 3 switches during the height of a snowstorm, eventually crashing into a freight train, injuring 2 employees. The freight engine was badly smashed and the 2 empty cars were completely demolished. Strong winds also blew down a 30-m oil derrick.</p> <p>Remembrance Day</p>	<p>1933: Working under cover of a heavy snowfall—18 cm over 2 days—and gale-force winds, thieves broke into 2 Portage Avenue business places in downtown Winnipeg, MB, getting away with almost \$250 in cash.</p>
<p>2003: A fierce windstorm blew across Ontario, leaving 100,000 customers without electricity. In Toronto, winds topped 110 km/h, sending recycling boxes and garbage bins rolling and wreaking havoc on the roads. Winds blew bike couriers into curbs, forcing them to dismount, and pushed police cruisers around on the Skyway Bridge, forcing it to close for 4 hours.</p>	<p>1933: Impenetrable blankets of sea mist that had swathed the whole BC coast for days had 14 deep-sea vessels fog-bound in the Strait of Georgia. Feeling their way toward the First Narrows, the Canadian Pacific steamer <i>Princess Alice</i> and the Alaska Steamship Company's <i>SS Yukon</i> of Seattle collided in the fog. The noise of the impact was heard 2 km away.</p>	<p>1998: Thick, freezing fog descended across southern Alberta, causing several accidents. Two people died in a rash of accidents. Limited visibility delayed flights for up to an hour and diverted others. The fog is not unusual for November when easterly wind traps cold air and moisture at the surface. Later in the day, a wind change lifted the fog.</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p>2003: Warm weather was to blame for the world's largest herd of caribou using a major Labrador highway for its annual migration from northern Quebec to the Labrador Sea. The herd caused unprecedented traffic tie-ups; some drivers waited 30 minutes or more for the caribou to pass. Because the ground still was not frozen, the caribou used the road as a ready alternative.</p>	<p>1901: The barquentine <i>Titania</i> wrecked in a dense fog near Cape Race, NL. The captain and crew, all of whom were badly injured, were on the wreckage for 20 hours, lashed to the rigging. So thick was the fog that coastal folk were not aware that a wreck had occurred and the ship's crew was unable to make any signals that would attract attention to their plight.</p>	<p>2003: Mountain passes in British Columbia got the season's first heavy dose of wet, slushy snow. On the Coquihalla summit it was snowing "close to a madman" with about 122 cm of accumulation. At lower elevations, it was 150 mm of rain that fell. Hellish driving conditions caused numerous accidents and stranded travellers on the Trans-Canada and area highways.</p>	<p>2003: A report on the blackout that plunged 50 million people across the eastern United States and Ontario into darkness for at least 24 hours on 14 August blames the management of an Ohio power company and the weather. Hot weather caused the lines to sag and touch tree branches, shutting down transmission lines across the east. There was also insufficient wind to keep the wires cool.</p>

2002: In the span of little more than 2 weeks, BC's Lower Mainland went from worrying about low water reservoirs to facing flooded basements. Vancouver had 15 consecutive days of rain, totalling 160 mm. Following several days with torrential downpours, the roof of a Surrey school gymnasium "imploded" and collapsed to the floor.

20

2000: Snowy conditions in northern New Brunswick cut short Progressive Conservative Leader Joe Clark's campaign swing through the province when his tour officials refused to gamble on being snowed in at Charlo. They could land, but they were worried they wouldn't be able to leave. Bathurst received 16 cm of snow. Police cited dozens of fender-benders and cars in ditches.

21

2003: The largest professional outdoor hockey game ever, witnessed by 57,167 fans, took place in Edmonton, AB. The game was held in trying conditions, with temperatures dropping to -20°C rink-side and a wind chill of -28°C. Amazingly, most spectators stuck around. Some complained of frozen beer. Only one person suffered mild hypothermia—and it wasn't the streaker!

22

1930: A thick blanket of fog made motoring hazardous in Vancouver, BC. Two armed bandits stepped out of the fog to slug and rob a drifter of \$67. But in the fog, the victim was able to conceal traveller's cheques totaling \$135 and a purse containing \$61 in bills.

23

1986: Gale-force winds, choppy seas, and driving rain made navigation treacherous on the opening day of lobster season off Nova Scotia. Several times the weather forced lobster fishers to abandon ship and to rescue fellow fishers clinging to the bows of sinking vessels. A 21-year-old non-swimmer was swept overboard off Far Point Island and drowned.

24

1970: In southwestern Ontario, up to 60 cm of drifting snow fell over 2 days. Motorists were trapped for more than 14 hours on highway 401 near London, ON, in the worst traffic snarl on record. The police estimate there were 700 stalled vehicles. Most stranded occupants wore light clothing and were numbed by the cold. The hungriest begged for food from others.

25

1983: High winds, heavy rains (65 mm), and rising water levels disrupted life in central New Brunswick. Rains forced roads to close and washed out a bridge in north Fredericton. Strong winds downed power lines, blew out transformer fuses, felled trees on power lines, and cracked insulators. Two-thirds of the province lost electricity at one time or another.

26

Last Quarter ●

2002: A record number of Canada geese, waxwings, ravens, and goshawks darkened the skies of southern Alberta in one of the longest delayed migrations in recent history. Experts blamed the weather. A spring drought caused key water resources to dry up, but Calgary's Glenmore Reservoir remained a large, viable water source for birds.

27

2003: The winter's first storm left parts of Ontario without electricity for a couple of days. One motorist stopped at a stoplight to clear snow from his windshield and accidentally locked his keys in his car. He wasn't dressed for the weather: penny loafers, no gloves, and no hat. He ended up late, frozen, \$60 out of pocket, and the incident ruined his penny loafers.

28

Weather Quiz
A significant fraction of the so-called Bermuda Triangle incidents are likely from what source:
1) tsunamis
2) hurricanes
3) weather bombs
4) rogue wave
5) waterspouts
(Answer on inside back cover)

29

1930: Operating in the East End of Vancouver, and taking advantage of a thick blanket of fog, bandits and robbers staged several holdups and robberies. Police responded to all calls with difficulty because of the impenetrable fog, which slowed driving and made searching for the marauders virtually impossible.

30

NOVEMBER

	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11
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18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29
30					

December 2005

JANUARY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				<p>1952: Early in the 1950s, a bored weather observer stationed north of Hudson Bay, left a monument that time cannot eradicate. Using an abandoned bulldozer, he spent 2 years and great effort pushing boulders into a message. It could be seen from 3 km above the earth's surface, silhouetted against the snow. [from The Realist, November 1964]</p> <p>1</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1924: A mail carrier for a construction company east of Sioux Lookout, ON, missed the trail and wandered 4 days without food or matches. Losing his way and lacking bush experience, he travelled in a circle, walking continuously. He managed to reach camp without his shoes or socks. His feet were a solid mass of ice, necessitating the amputation of both legs.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>1986: Along the highway between Dalhousie and Charlo, NB, heavy rains, high winds, incoming tides, and tonnes of sand, debris, and driftwood blown onto the highway made driving difficult. Several vehicles made it through the obstacle course, but others stalled and had to be towed before police closed the road. Flooding was made worse by snow banks that trapped seawater.</p> <p>3</p>
<p>1989: A near-record rainfall caused widespread flooding throughout St. John's, NL. More than 51 mm of rain fell, just shy of the daily record. Motorists found themselves plowing through mini-lakes along city streets. Many residents were busy emptying flooded basements. At Whitbourne, NL, wind blew the roof off a motel, spewing debris that demolished a set of gas pumps.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1927: In southern Saskatchewan, a farmer was driving a horse-drawn sleigh with 30 little pigs following in its tracks. Suddenly, a blizzard struck. Temperatures dropped from 3°C to -34°C in a few hours. The farmer rounded up 12 pigs and put them in the sleigh box. The next day, he found the rest of the little pigs, frozen stiff. The sows eventually turned up, minus their ears and tails.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>2003: Organizers of a world-cup luge event in Calgary, AB, wanted to make women's racing a little more exciting, so they started at the men's position. However, a warm chinook created hair-raising havoc over the now lightning-fast 1,282 m track of ice. It was scary for the racers, making pinballs of the sliders. Three-quarters of the racers crashed along the walls.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>2003: A classic nor'easter, one of the worst on record, struck the Maritimes. Moncton, NB, was the hardest hit with 70 cm of snow. Winds reaching 100 km/h caused blinding whiteouts and hefty drifts. The Moncton airport closed for almost 2 days. The storm also led to 5 deaths in New Brunswick, including the death of a pregnant woman who gave birth before dying of her injuries.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Weather Quiz Where is the warmest ocean or sea water in the world? 1) Caribbean 2) Mediterranean 3) Tasman Sea 4) Persian Gulf 5) Hawaiian Islands (Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p>8</p> <p>First Quarter ◐</p>	<p>1909: Winnipeg firefighters had to battle flames in excruciating cold (-36.7°C) that instantly turned water streams into ice. Icicles hanging from electrical and telephone wires in the rear of one building measured 4 m in length and the ice coating on blackened and charred walls of the building was 4 m thick.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1797: "... the wind rose a gale ... a perfect storm with such heavy drifting that has obscured the hemisphere ... Several of us much frozen. As bad a day as I ever saw in my life. Poor Hoel ... lost his dogs and train and with them all his venture...showers of rain, hail, sleet and snow which with the storm continued all night. [from the diary of David Thompson as cited by G. A. McMorran.]</p> <p>10</p>
<p>1926: A blizzard in southern Alberta finally blew itself out after 16 hours. Its equal was never known before in the district. A mail carrier near Gleichen stalled his car when drifting snow shorted the ignition. The snow penetrated the car, which is what probably insulated him from freezing to death. A search party found him stiff and cold, but alive, 24 hours later.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>1923: An ice fisher and a small pony were 3 km out on Lake Manitoba, MB, when a violent storm struck. The wind dashed the lake into a fury, and the waves broke apart the ice. Into the second day, he fought his way across the ice some 5 or 6 km, pulling the pony and reaching shore near Lundar. He was alive, but suffered painful frostbite.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>2003: Black ice with a dusting of snow took drivers across Nova Scotia by surprise. Hundreds of cars veered off roads, some landing in ditches. Police called it a freak 15-minute snow squall; forecasters called them streamers—north-northwesterly winds that linger long enough over water to pick up moisture and then move inland with a burst of flurries.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>2003: The first big snowfall of the season fell in parts of Ontario and Quebec. Easterly winds caused serious drifting. Montreal, QC, got from 15 to 30 cm of snow, which trapped cars under igloo-like domes. In one very tragic incident, an 18-month-old toddler, left in a car whose tailpipe was blocked by snow, was asphyxiated while her father shovelled the car out.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1964: Extreme cold in Alberta closed rural schools and caused the deaths of at least 3 people. Authorities recommended power rationing and Calgary residents co-operated by voluntarily turning off their Christmas lights. The post office reported only one serious case of frostbite among its employees, but, ironically, the victim was an inside worker, not an outside worker.</p> <p>15</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p>2003: "It's puking outside right now," said one snow enthusiast. In the past several weeks, huge dumps of snow fell in the Rockies, creating some of the best opening conditions for skiing in years. Over a 3-week period, three storms struck Lake Louise, AB, each dropping between 50 and 75 cm of snow. The resort opened in early November with its best snow conditions in 20 years.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1937: As the train engineer gave his last warning toot to call commercial men from a hotel in Hudson Bay Junction, MB, one passenger raced aboard carrying a white porcelain water jug from the hotel. He wasn't stealing it—his teeth were frozen in it! Obliging, the CNR trainmen thawed out the teeth and the man returned the water jug before the train departed.</p> <p>17</p>

1893: "The thermometer registered 57 degrees (14°C) at noon ... we were all in our summer clothes and some were wearing straw hats. We had been playing lacrosse on a field of grass ... We had no snow that year until Christmas Day ... and the real heavy snow winter did not arrive until well after that." [Memories about a mild beginning to winter in Saskatoon]

18

1985: Snow, whipped by winds reaching 100 km/h, lashed most of Newfoundland, causing hazardous driving conditions and forcing many schools to close. Along the Trans-Canada Highway, visibility was zero in blowing and drifting snow. A 40-passenger bus operating daily runs on the Burin Peninsula crashed into a home lifting it completely off its foundation.

19

1964: The temperature dropped to -34°C with winds up to 70 km/h across central Alberta. Radio stations reported that all roads were blocked and cattle were dying everywhere, forcing ranchers to sell their cattle for as little as one cent per pound for dog food. Bulls froze so badly that they became sterile. Deer ate from grain stacks despite the fact a dog was often on top of the stack.

20

2003: Nearly 50 people were forced from their homes in the small community of Notre-Dame-de-Montauban, QC, when unusually large amounts of ice and slush dammed part of the Batiscan River, causing flooding. The community of 1,000 was put on alert for evacuation. The river overflowed, filling basements. Residents used sandbags, but the water kept pouring in.

21

Winter Solstice 13:35 EST

1932: Old-time Victorians declared that it was the worst gale in 40 years. The boathouse at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club was reduced to matchwood; many valuable sailing dinghies were also smashed. Winds blew down power lines and poles, uprooted trees, knocked down signboards, and set chimneys ablaze. Unexpected lightning lit up the inky sky early in the morning.

22

1996: A Russian AN-124 Antonov transport aircraft slid off the main runway and 150 metres along the grass before sinking a metre into mud at Canadian Forces Base Trenton, ON. There had been fog that night, and rain and snow on 20 of the past 23 days had saturated the ground. The plane was pulled from the mud 4 days later, after unloading and de-fuelling the plane to make it lighter.

23

Last Quarter 

1972: Bad weather forced a plane en route to Cuba from Russia to touch down at Gander, NL. The delegation on board was headed by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. After being treated to steak dinner, the Cuban delegation toured Gander. Castro spied children tobogganing and joined them for a while. He took several tumbles, much to the amusement of his entourage and the curious children.

24

2003: During the holidays, Canada was awash in unseasonably mild temperatures. Even Iqaluit was a balmy -7°C. Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver all missed out on a white Christmas this year. The weather was especially unfestive in the Maritimes, with copious rain, extensive fog, and leaden skies. Halifax International Airport recorded 70.6 mm of rain.

25

2000: Veteran skiers couldn't remember so much snow falling before Christmas at Collingwood, ON. The 85-cm base of machine-groomed powder on Blue Mountain's 33 trails enticed large numbers of skiers and snowboarders. By Boxing Day, London had seen 112.1 cm of snow; normal for the entire month is 51.1 cm. For the month, some stations in ski-country had over 200 cm of snow.

26

Boxing Day
Chanukah Begins

Christmas Day

2003: They were the lazy, hazy days of winter. Sun revellers enjoyed a break from winter cold with balmy double-digit temperatures across southern Ontario. Unseasonably warm weather had residents out enjoying parks, trails, and golf courses. Joggers, cyclists, and roller bladers took advantage of the snow-free sidewalks. In Hamilton, one golf course hosted 100 golfers.

27

1917: The most disastrous ice storm in memory descended through British Columbia's Fraser Valley, downing fruit trees and tying up Vancouver telegraph service for many hours. Ice-coated wires, supporting huge weights of ice, were the size of a man's wrist. Telegraph poles snapped, hurling wires to the ground and into the Fraser River in an interminable tangle.

28

1933: Much of Eastern Canada was in the throes of a brutal cold snap. Fourteen Ontario sites recorded their coldest-ever temperatures, and two others, their coldest this century. At Niagara Falls, an imposing ice-bridge formed across the river where the two *Maids of the Mist* remained fast in the ice.

29

2003: Vancouver got its first dump of snow of the winter. Officials closed area roads to Cypress Mountain because of blowing snow and whiteouts. Police set up roadside checks and stopped vehicles without snow tires and chains from entering higher-elevation roads where even those with four-wheel drive were having problems gaining traction.

30

New Moon 

1933: New Year's Eve was unusually mild (5.6°C) and wet (6.6 mm of rain) in Toronto, ON, and a dense bank of fog shrouded the city. However, 2 days earlier, the city shivered at -30°C and slipped on 25 mm of freezing rain. New Year's revellers crept cautiously over pavements that were glazed with ice or slushy snow. Ice-clotted streets also made driving treacherous.

31

WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

January	4) Vancouver
February	3) willing to take greater risks
March	4) 90%
April	4) rip tides or currents
May	3) almost 3 million
June	4) icebergs
July	3) 10 days
August	4) no one has ever seen it
September	5) house damage
October	1) telegraph
November	5) waterspouts
December	4) Persian Gulf