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JANUARY 2007

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1932: One of the worst freezing-rain storms ever left Southwestern Ontario residents with a maze of downed telegraph and telephone wires to fight through. Icy highways halted traffic and added to the difficulties of repair gangs, while water covered roads in low spots. Stranded motorists filled every available shelter, including 60 people who spent the night in a single Caledonia farmhouse.</p> <p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2005: Montreal, QC, area hospitals treated an unusually high number of injuries directly attributable to slippery city sidewalks and streets. In one emergency room, the flow of patients with broken arms, dislocated shoulders, and sprained ankles was 4 times the daily average. Near Québec City, 2 snowmobilers went through thin ice on Lac-St-Joseph.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>1922: Across eastern Nova Scotia, powerful winds whipped as much as 35 cm of snow into enormous drifts and stopped train service for 3 days in Antigonish. When service was restored, passengers arriving on the first train had a moving adventure to tell. Some resourceful spirits organized an amateur theatrical company, which put on impromptu sketches and greatly helped to wile away the long hours.</p> <p>3</p> <p>Perihelion 15:00 EST</p> <p>Full Moon </p>	<p>2003: A British Columbia judge ruled that a man suing the city of Kamloops for his fall on an icy sidewalk had no leg to stand on. He wrote: "Ice is a natural hazard of Canadian winters. It can form quickly and unexpectedly ... Slippery walks can never be completely prevented ... [as it] would be prohibitively expensive." All parties being sued acted reasonably to protect the public, he said.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1921: In Ontario, 3 US Navy balloonists spent 8 hours trying to land near Moose Factory in winds blowing from 120 to 135 km/h. They ate 2 of 3 carrier pigeons that were to take progress reports to their superiors at Rockaway Point, NY. When they landed in some trees 15 km from Ship Sands Island, they faced a court martial for their joyride, while newspapers offered them money for their stories.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1904: The weather turned bitterly cold, and old-timers around Crooked Creek, YT, said the wind would "blow the hair off a dog." One musher tied a handkerchief over his face, covering everything but his eyes. A mass of ice, the congealed moisture from sweat and breath, stuck to his face, making breathing difficult. The ends of his fingers stung.</p> <p>6</p>
<p>2006: The ice on the Rideau Canal in Ottawa, ON, was 25 to 30 cm thick, and the 7.8-km-long rink could open for its 36th season. Crews removed snow and flooded the surface non-stop. The rink often opens in late December and closes in early March, but skating days have ranged from 38 to 95. In August 2005, Guinness World Records ratified it as the world's longest naturally frozen skating rink.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1901: Major Bennett of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles rebuked some men who refused to attend a service for the safe return of South African soldiers due to a "petty" snowstorm in Vancouver, BC. [Hardly petty—111.3 cm of snow fell over the previous 8 days.] The major called them fair-weather soldiers, unfit to wear the Queen's uniform, and a curse and a disgrace to their regiment.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>2006: In Winnipeg, MB, officials couldn't recall more open water on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in mid-January in 35 years. Instead of skating, skiing, or snowshoeing, residents strolled alongside the waterways in the balmy weather. Only 10 people, rather than the usual 30, signed up for the University of Manitoba's winter-survival workshop. Few could imagine building an igloo with slush.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1911: Of livestock, sheep suffer the most from cold. In Sweet Grass, AB, snow had drifted to the top of a 15-m-high cutbank, and 1,100 sheep walked off the cliff, more than 50 perishing. Another rancher lost a huge number of his 3,000-head flock, many straying before and during the storm. Another 700 sheep drifted onto the Milk River, near Coutts, after their herder abandoned them to seek shelter.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>2004: In Moncton, NB, there was a spike in the number of false alarms at properties and businesses over the weekend—12 on Saturday and 15 on Sunday. Apparently, the recent frost and cold caused buildings to heave, tripping several alarm motion sensors.</p> <p>11</p> <p>Last Quarter </p>	<p>1955: A savage storm smashed wharves and dories into rubble along the rocky coasts of eastern and southern Newfoundland. The churning seas chewed 7 buildings into matchwood and washed away 5 stretches of highway. Washouts on the railway line held up an eastbound express for more than 4 hours. At the entrance to St. John's harbour, 2 freighters rode out the giant swells for a few days.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>1935: Before aircraft took over, mail carriers in Northern Manitoba risked their lives crossing frozen lakes between Norway House and Cross Lake. Strong winds and heavy snow apply pressure to ice, causing it to sag and forcing water to the surface, creating slush. Couriers' snowshoes or carioles got caught in the slush and then froze to the ice. One Native courier's whole body was ice encased.</p> <p>13</p>
<p>1919: For nearly an hour, Vancouver, BC, experienced a riveting thunderstorm, with vivid lightning. A brilliant blue flash of flame, followed by a loud thunderclap, scared many residents. The storm severed 2 of BC Electric Railway's 4 high-voltage transmission lines, paralyzing the system. Thousands of workers walked home in the rain and afternoon theatre crowds had no way to get home.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>2006: The weather gods didn't rain on Vancouver, BC, today, ending 27 consecutive wet days, 1 day short of the 1953 record. Many rain clouds were in sight and a few raindrops fell downtown and in other areas of the "Lower Rainland," but no measurable rainfall occurred at the airport, where it counts. Most Vancouverites wanted the record—to make a month of wet torture worthwhile.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1931: A strong gale swept out of Alberta and into Saskatchewan. Residents in Regina, SK, felt the dirt-filled gale was more violent than a blizzard. Heavy dirt, hanging in the air, made it difficult for travellers to reach their destination. Flying ashes from backyards filled the dust-choked air, along with loose boards and rubbish of all kinds. Some said tumbleweeds travelled as fast as trains.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>2006: For the past 3 days across Labrador, a blizzard raged. From Hopedale to Nain, and from Postville to Cartwright, up to 120 cm of snow fell, a record in some localities. Roads were impassable and schools and businesses closed. Only essential personnel reported to work at the Goose Bay military base. The RCMP rescued 8 people, missing 4 days on a snowmobile trek from Happy Valley to Rigolet.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>2006: A massive ice jam on the Saint John River raised concerns about the 105-year-old wooden crossing at Hartland, NB. The mayor had never seen ice flow this high in January—only 2 m separated the top of the crushed ice from the bridge bottom. As the world's longest covered bridge, at 391 m, it attracts thousands of international tourists and is a vital economic multiplier for the small town.</p> <p>18</p> <p>New Moon </p>	<p>1935: Saskatchewan bore the brunt of the 4th day of a gripping cold wave, extending from the Pacific to the Great Lakes. In Regina, a man was found lying in the street in -40°C weather. His feet were badly frozen up to the ankles, and his hands frozen so solid that gloves could not be stripped from his fingers. Amputation was necessary.</p> <p>19</p>	<p>1951: A rare winter thunderstorm disrupted 500 young mental patients at the Ontario Hospital in Orillia, ON, when lightning struck and set on fire the roof of an adjoining building. After calling the fire brigade, staff roused the children and, after explaining the sudden fire drill, used flashlights to guide them through the darkness in pairs, without panic. The fire took 2 hours to put out.</p> <p>20</p> <p>Islamic New Year</p>

2006: About 1:30 AM, a Boeing 707 from Buffalo, NY, carrying 14 members of Bon Jovi's band and touring staff overshot the slick runway in Hamilton, ON, after landing in severe weather. The plane was undamaged and no one was hurt. One eyewitness said band members seemed really cool, leaving the plane with drinks. It was the second jet in 3 months to slide off that runway.

21

2005: In Alberta, after 28 straight days of sub-zero temperatures, residents basked in 15°C. Snow melted so fast it sounded like rain falling, turning streets into a sloppy, wet mess. In Calgary, golfers wore shorts, bare-legged joggers pounded the bike paths, and children in snow boots splashed in street-wide puddles. In Edmonton, ice sculptures melted, cracked, fogged, and chipped easily.

22

2006: Voter turnout improved from a record low of 60.9% in the June 2004 election to more than 65%. In most of Canada, weather was not a factor on election day, but where it was, residents still voted. When a blizzard struck tiny Tuktoyaktuk, NT, citizens came by snowmobile or big truck. One New Brunswick voter hiked past huge chunks of ice blocking a road to where a friend waited to pick him up.

23

1924: A teenager walking to work in Montreal, QC, was struck by a large icicle that dislodged from a roof. He suffered a 10-cm gash in his skull, a fractured shin, and other minor injuries, and died later in hospital. Police arrested and charged the home owner with violating the bylaw on cleaning snow and ice from house roofs. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$25 plus costs.

24

1842: The schooner *Cherub's* arrival at Lehave, NS, was quite pleasing though unexpected. Last October, she sailed from Lunenburg for Boston, MA, with a load of cordwood and 3 passengers, but nothing was heard of her until now. A storm drove the vessel to Barbados, where the cargo of wood was sold, thus making a more lucrative trip than if she had succeeded in getting to Boston.

25

2005: Manitobans were smashing their vehicles at record pace, thanks to blizzards, freezing rain, ice-covered roads, quick thawing, and flash freezing. The highway from Headingley to Brandon was closed 3 times. More than 25,000 accidents had already occurred in January, up some 16% from last year. Snow-packed roads and motorists trying to see around snow banks at intersections were major causes.

26

1940: A grim story of death in the frozen Yukon was told by a man who, with 3 companions, spent 48 hours hacking the body of his young brother Alfred from an icy tomb. They went to the place where Alfred's tractor crashed through the ice while crossing a river. There, they found his body sheathed in 1.5 m of ice, his head level with the surface.

27

Weather Quiz

How many snowflakes are in a kilogram?

- 1) 200 million
- 2) 1 billion
- 3) 1 million
- 4) 0.5 trillion
- 5) 1 septillion

(Answer on inside back cover)

28

2005: A 75-year-old from Truro, NS, invented a way for smokers to satisfy their cravings on cold days, without wasting cigarettes. He had watched them taking a few puffs outside before stuffing the butt back in the pack or in their pocket, then smelling like cigarettes when they went in. His still-secret idea for a shorter cigarette is not yet patented. [From C. Von Kintzel, *The Chronicle-Herald*]

29

1939: The worst blizzard in years lashed Ontario's Ottawa Valley, blocking roads and tying up traffic. The gale piled waist-high drifts across streets and sidewalks, and street lights became faint blurs of illumination. Drivers and passengers pushed vehicles from snow drifts. One prominent Smiths Falls' resident steered his car as it moved slowly down the street, drawn by a team of horses!

30

1916: In Vancouver, BC, snow was heaped high in the business and shopping districts. Some 67.7 cm fell during the month. Vehicles moved slowly, their wheels churning up snow like paddlewheelers. When a pedestrian did not hear the horn of an oncoming vehicle, the car drove over him, but the soft cushion of snow provided all the protection he needed, and he was not injured.

31

First Quarter




JANUARY						
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Cars and houses on Gower Street in St. John's, NL, after a snow storm / Niall Benvie / Corbis

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FEBRUARY 2007


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<div>2006: A storm surge, part of a fierce winter storm that lashed Cape Breton Island, helped unearth 2 sections of a wall constructed around 1740 at the Fortress of Louisbourg, NS. The wall was likely used by soldiers inside the fort to pick off enemies making a beach landing. A Parks' Canada archeologist walks the site after every storm and discovered the 260-year-old stone walls.</div> <div>1</div>	<div>1951: Some 100,000 citizens of Montreal, QC, were trapped when from 10 to 30 cm of snow fell in the city. Some residents took 5 hours to get home, many walking. Police horses were helpless in the chaos of skidding automobiles and stranded street cars, the worst in 40 years. Police switchboards were flooded with calls, most asking, "Where can I get a taxi?" or "Could you help me find my husband?"</div> <div>2</div>	<div>1923: Railway and ferry services were abandoned in St. John's, NL, during the worst winter storm in many years. Temperatures below -23°C and fierce gales along the coast severed all communication with the outside. A mail boat to Nova Scotia took 3 days to cover half of what was usually a 24-hour trip, and tremendous ice floes off the east coast seriously impeded ocean shipping.</div> <div>3</div>
				Groundhog Day ☾	Full Moon ☾	
<div>1952: A 200-m-tall radio tower near Carman, MB, the highest "skyscraper" in western Canada, was no more! An RCAF plane crashed into it in thick fog, killing 3 young airmen and buckling the tower. A repair crew tried to stop the 85-tonne structure from toppling, but a "weird grinding, followed by a sharp crack" was heard before it crashed to the ground, taking 3 young "high riggers" to their deaths.</div> <div>4</div>	<div>1947: It had been very cold across southern Ontario, with temperatures dipping below -16°C. At the fishing port and resort of Erieau, starlings were unable to pursue their normal eating habits because of ice-crusts trees and ground, so they dove for minnows in openings on the ice on Rondeau Bay, holes made by ice fishers and those harvesting ice.</div> <div>5</div>	<div>2006: An airbus from France flew to Iqaluit, NU, for "cold soaking"—when a plane is shut down for hours at very low temperatures and then started up. Iqaluit is famous for stress testing as it is cold and dry, with a long runway and no noise controls or curfew. It was unusually warm, though, with daytime highs of -15°C (normal is -24°). By month's end, it exceeded 5°C, the warmest spot in Canada.</div> <div>6</div>	<div>1861: The Member of Parliament for Peterborough, ON, was severely frozen when his cutter upset near Bloomfield, depositing him in a large snowdrift. In righting his vehicle, his hands and arms became exposed and badly frostbitten. The temperature at the time was around -30°C. Freeze damage to one hand was so severe that amputation was necessary.</div> <div>7</div>	<div>2005: Southern Ontario and Québec had endured an unprecedented 8-day smog advisory. An "inversion layer" kept pollutants trapped at street level. People with respiratory or heart disease were most at risk, and pollution levels were highest in the morning as children went to school. The air was still, with no precipitation to cleanse it. It was like putting southern Ontario into the SkyDome.</div> <div>8</div>	<div>1905: A huge snowstorm buried the Maritime Express at Folly Mountain, NS, for 3 days. So deeply buried were the locomotives that a hole had to be poked through a drift to get air into the engine cabs and expel the suffocating coal gas. Water for boilers was exhausted, so crews shovelled snow into the tender to melt it. A driver of a team of horses hauling hay drove his rig over top of the train.</div> <div>9</div>	<div>1894: A resident living above a fur store in Montreal, QC, awoke to see 3 men disappear with bundles under their arms. Police traced their footprints in the snow from store to store and finally to a house. A light was burning inside the dwelling, but no one answered the door. Through the keyhole, police could see the bundles of furs, so they broke open the door and arrested the thieves.</div> <div>10</div>
					Last Quarter ☾	
<div>2006: About 2,500 grey seal pups washed out to sea on a huge storm surge and tide, about 6 m higher than normal, and drowned off Pictou Island in Northumberland Strait. Ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence was the least ever seen due to unusually warm weather, forcing females to give birth and nurse on the beach. The storm separated some pups from their mothers, and it was feared they would starve.</div> <div>11</div>	<div>1951: Freezing weather brought relief from floods in the upper reaches of British Columbia's Fraser Valley after a 3-day deluge exceeded 300 mm. Four persons lost their lives and nearly 1,000 were left homeless. About 8 trains were halted short of their destinations, as transcontinental lines were cut by mudslides and washouts. When the rain ended, some parts of the valley got 15 cm of snow.</div> <div>12</div>	<div>2006: The 1,600-km Yukon Quest race from Fairbanks, AK, to Whitehorse had temperatures from 1°C to -25°C, and rain, freezing rain, snow, and melting snow along the way. The surface turned soft, then rock hard; one musher said travelling on the Yukon River was like standing on top of a jackhammer. After bogging down in blinding whiteouts, 12 mushers and 88 dogs were airlifted off Eagle Pass.</div> <div>13</div>	<div>1861: The mail route from Kincardine to Goderich, ON, was exposed to the icy north and west winds off Lake Huron. During a fierce storm, the carrier left in a sleigh drawn by 2 horses, but went no more than 15 km. Benumbed with cold, the hapless soul abandoned 1 horse, then, at various points, his buffalo coat and mailbag before tumbling into huge snowdrifts, where his frozen body was found.</div> <div>14</div>	<div>1928: Some 100 km off the Labrador coast, 2 Canadian airmen and an Inuit civilian's plane made a forced landing on an ice floe. After walking for a day in heavy weather, they came to open sea. They paddled for 7 days in an inflated raft, with only emergency rations, a rifle, and some walrus meat, before reaching land. They trekked 4 days over rough terrain to reach Port Burwell, weary but safe.</div> <div>15</div>	<div>1861: A shocking accident happened on the Grand Trunk Railway, near Rivière Ouelle, QC. Snow had drifted into a cutting to a depth of 6 m and 4 men were employed to clear it away. A train, which they evidently had not heard, owing probably to the storm, slammed into them and horribly mangled their bodies.</div> <div>16</div>	<div>2006: Near Montreal, QC, winds peaking at 111 km/h blew over a train and unroofed a school. Hydro-Québec had the worst day of weather-related electricity interruptions since the 1998 ice storm. A flash freeze, freezing rain, and whiteouts made surfaces like glass and triggered massive chain-reaction pileups near Montreal and Ottawa, ON. The crash near Ottawa involved 37 vehicles and killed 4.</div> <div>17</div>
			Valentine's Day	National Flag Day of Canada		New Moon ●

<p>1946: Showers of grubs descended in snowstorms, creating a curious sight in St. John's, NL. The grubs, which feed on other insects, were black and about 20 mm long and 3 mm thick. Scientists sent the specimens to the agricultural station in Ottawa for further testing.</p> <p>18</p> <p>Chinese New Year</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Which weather condition was judged to be the most romantic?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) light rain 2) heavy rain 3) thunder and lightning 4) snowstorm 5) heat wave <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p> <p>Heritage Day Alberta Family Day</p>	<p>1960: A blizzard stranded 1,500 motorists between Toronto and Barrie, ON. Two soldiers asphyxiated in their stalled car, while some buses went missing, one in a 3-m drift. An expectant Stouffville mother was told to find a horse and sled to get to a hospital, and in Barrie, stranded motorists were offered jail cells. In Ottawa, a 21-gun salute to honour the new prince's birth had to be cancelled.</p> <p>20</p>	<p>1923: Search and rescue personnel found a man in the snow-bound Cowichan, BC, hills, exhausted and half-crazed by privation. He and his companion went missing 10 days ago. When found, he was crawling on his hands and knees in the snow, 10 km from Duncan. His friend, an experienced woodsman who knew the trails, was still missing. The two were in the hills, hunting cougars.</p> <p>21</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>1897: Winnipeg, MB, ice dealers voiced concern about future climate. One said that 12 years ago ice blocks from the Red River were more than 1.5 m thick, but now average less than 1 m. Said another, hockey and curling will be replaced by mid-winter regattas on the murky river— "And the unfortunate iceman will then ... find his occupation gone and Winnipeg will ... import its supply from Dakota."</p> <p>22</p>	<p>1946: Officials blamed 4 fatalities this week in central New Brunswick on more than 55 cm of snow. Near Meductic, a sudden avalanche of snow from the cliff of a sandpit buried a 14-year-old girl head first in the hard-packed snow, killing her instantly. Her young brother summoned their mother, who frantically tried to dislodge the child and attract help from passing cars, but all in vain.</p> <p>23</p>	<p>2003: The temperature in Winnipeg, MB, dipped to -35.9°C, the coldest day that winter. At Scoopy Doo Canine Waste Removal, business was picking up. Calling them poopsicles, the owner said, "It's actually easier to clean ... because it's so frozen you just whack it out ... like a golf ball." Extreme cold often causes water-main breaks; owners must pay to free their car from ice caused by a break.</p> <p>24</p> <p>First Quarter </p>
<p>2003: Residents in northeastern New Brunswick had heard loud, cracking noises over several nights. Some thought they were earthquakes, but seismologists discounted that. Others felt it was breaking ice and snow crust. However, because a sharp inversion had formed overnight with the Arctic air mass, noises would be heard much farther away, as sound easily carries below an inversion.</p> <p>25</p>	<p>1914: A violent, twisting wind struck Claresholm, AB, damaging a building and the curling rink. The rink's roof blew into a house, smashing windows, china, and furniture and causing a large beam to fall, just missing a little girl in bed. Dozens of buggies, including a \$180 show buggy, wagons, and carts were blown 100s of metres. Curlers mourned their rink, as there'd be no more curling.</p> <p>26</p>	<p>1923: When Montreal, QC, security personnel tried to evict a 42-year-old man for non-payment of rent, his landlord found him in bed, frozen to death. Nighttime temperatures had dipped to -23°C.</p> <p>27</p>	<p>1950: Three friends skied from Landslide, ON, across a lake to a cottage about 15 km from Sault Ste. Marie. One arrived with wife, swollen feet. His buddies rubbed them and stuck them in snow. By morning, they were black and about twice normal size. One friend went to get help, racing through a blinding snowstorm on skis and snowshoes, having not skied for 2 years and never having snowshoed.</p> <p>28</p>			

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MARCH 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1952: Across the Maritimes, 4 storms in a week dumped over 70 cm of snow and generated mountainous waves, which dashed the hopes of saving 3 fishing boats with 10 fishers. Roads in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia were blocked, forcing schools to close for the week. Strong gales piled the snow into 4-m-high drifts across Cape Breton Island, halting coal mining operations in Glace Bay.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2006: Ice floes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence were thick enough for a helicopter carrying former Beatle Paul McCartney and his wife, Heather, to land and observe seal pups before the annual hunt began. The weather was messy though—freezing spray, stiff winds up to 55 km/h, and frigid temperatures. The two tried to get as close as they could to the newborn seals.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>1941: A young farm boy walked 15 km through snowdrifts in -25°C weather to enlist in the army at Innisfree, AB, but was rejected by medical officers. He remarked, "It's a funny thing that I can walk 9 miles here and 9 miles return and still not be fit enough to join up." Recruiting officers were impressed by his spirit and that of countless others, but he was too young and too short.</p> <p>3</p>
						Full Moon 
<p>1970: Freezing rain paved streets with ice in Kitchener-Waterloo, ON, over which neither heel nor wheel could pass without slipping and sliding, the most treacherous road conditions within memory. Police officers spread salt, sand, and ashes under frustrated wheels. Countless pedestrians sprawled on sidewalks, most resenting more their loss of dignity than their physical discomfort.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1951: One of the worst blizzards ever swept across the prairies. Near Boissevain, MB, a 23-year-old country schoolteacher became exhausted after struggling through waist-deep snow for some distance. Her boyfriend flung her over his shoulder and staggered on. Spotting distant farm lights, he left her in the snow to seek aid, but not in time to save her. He suffered severe frostbite and shock.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1838: The winter across southern Ontario was so unusually mild that the growing season continued uninterrupted. A farmer in West Gwillimbury harvested a quantity of new potatoes, some of them as large as a hen's egg, which he discovered growing under a pile of manure.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1950: Massive ice floes clogged the channel of the St. Clair River in Ontario. The ice cakes started crushing against the banks, destroying boathouses, docks, piers, pilings, and breakwaters. Workmen laboured to break the blockage of heavy ice around a ferry and allow it to settle into the water.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1853: A downspout on a house on Notre Dame Street in Montreal, QC, overloaded with snow and ice, gave way. The load fell to the street, killing a girl, the 3rd instance in the last few days of similar situations. A newspaper editor ranted: "It is ... unpardonable that ... authorities should be so negligent ... as not to see that their regulations ... for the removal of snow and ice ... are ... enforced."</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1918: Weather experts were surprised by a winter thunderstorm in Vancouver, BC. Experts couldn't remember anything of the kind happening on the west coast so early in the year. Even the Aboriginals who viewed lightning as a reminder to children that there was "a brighter eye and a mightier voice than humans" said they would have to sit down and think out an explanation of the phenomenon.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>2003: Passengers aboard the <i>Marine Atlantic</i> ferry endured weeks of delays and disruptions in service as ships navigated through the worst ice pack in the Cabot Strait in decades. Compounding the problems were high winds and sub-zero temperatures. Ice pans 45 cm thick rafted one on top of another into 2-m-thick slabs. Shipping companies had to pay out a small fortune in extra fuel.</p> <p>10</p>
<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>11</p> <p>In Calgary, which month has the most number of days with huge snowfalls in excess of 20 cm?</p> <p>1) May 2) March 3) December 4) January 5) October</p> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	<p>2006: Temperatures across southern Ontario soared to 18°C. Throngs of Torontonians took to the streets to enjoy a record-breaking 16°C. Heavy rains, however, forced officials to issue a flood advisory, especially in low-lying sections on major city expressways. The spring-like temperatures started the flow of maple sap in many areas.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>2006: Police in Toronto, ON, explained that good weather was partly to blame for the rash of recent hit-and-run incidents, the latest of which claimed 2 lives. With warmer weather, drivers often speed up, and injuries tend to be more serious. Hit-and-run collisions were much higher in 2005.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>2006: One casualty of the mild winter was the triangular peninsula at Point Pelee National Park, ON, mainland Canada's southernmost point on the 42nd parallel. The park draws 300,000 international visitors annually. With no ice cover to protect it, the tip of the sand spit was eroded by winds whipped up on Lake Erie. Fortunately, the telescope that usually sat there had been removed.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>2003: This winter saw a record number of frozen water-pipe breaks in Saskatoon, SK—184 since January 1, more than double the previous 7-year average of 82. Crews worked 12- to 16-hour shifts, 7 days a week, to repair the breaks. Frost normally penetrates to 1.5 m, but this year, it penetrated as deep as 2.1 m and deeper in some places.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1920: Search parties on snowshoes, horseback, and in sleighs set out from St. Claude, MB, to find a labourer missing in a blizzard for 3 days. Searchers gave up, but a farmer's son continued following the footprints. He eventually found the man's body, lying against a snowbank, 30 m from a CPR right-of-way. His face was completely hidden behind a thick, white mask of frozen snow.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1940: Frost began emerging from the ground across southern Alberta, and heaving roadbeds caused the government to ban trucks indefinitely from all main highways in the province. The order, however, did not affect buses. Alberta towns, wholly dependent on truck delivery, were virtually cut off from their staples. Large trucking companies were furious about the ban, claiming it wasn't necessary.</p> <p>17</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>

2006: Edmonton, AB, had its harshest storm of the winter and its busiest day for towing companies. The 22 cm of snow set a new record for March, but 100 protesters still marched against the Iraq war. Highway drivers faced ice, bad visibility, and blowing snow. At one corner, 6 buses were stuck. Snow clearing was difficult because the booming economy had lured away many snowplow operators.

18

New Moon ●

1951: A storm-stranded party of 42 was rescued from a stalled train after 60 hours in a blinding prairie blizzard near Oyen, AB. The engine was a sheet of ice and the 6-car train was completely buried, with snow to the roof line on the left side and to the windows on the right side. CNR employees hiked through 5-m-high drifts to bring fresh meat and bread.

19

1846: While boys played marbles in the rear of the Emigrant Shed in Miramichi, NB, a large quantity of snow and ice fell from the roof of the store adjoining and buried 4 youngsters. Assistance was promptly procured and the bodies disinterred, but unfortunately 2 were found dead. One survivor had a severe cut under the jaw, inflicted by the spade in removing the snow.

20

Spring Equinox
19:07 EST

1942: Weather hampered the Scots Fusiliers of Canada's recruiting program in Kitchener, ON. Only a small crowd braved the cold winds to hear the band concert across from the armories. The demonstration and concert planned for City Hall square was postponed due to rain, snow, and freezing temperatures. Despite this, several men enlisted one day and several more took a medical examination the next.

21

2006: The *Queen of the North* sank near Hartley Bay, BC, the first BC ferry ever to sink. Two passengers were lost. Weather was not a major factor, but rescue took place in early-morning darkness, in very cold air and water. High winds delayed cleanup of diesel and light oil that spilled over a large area. Local birds were not considered at risk as no known seabird breeding colonies are nearby.

22

1902: A monster ice jam extended 40 km above Saint John, NB. Adding to the concern were millions of logs held back by the ice. The ice jam flooded an immense tract of land, including several islands. A dozen or more barns were swept away and a vast quantity of hay was ruined. About 30 highway bridges were destroyed and many more were damaged.

23

World Meteorological Day

1940: In Québec, 8,000 skiers and 100s of Laurentians' residents were stranded on 18 stalled trains. Gale-force winds packed railway cuts with up to 10 m of snow. Trains halted where passengers could get food and engineers could get coal and water for steam to keep coaches heated. "... they'll have to send a relief train ...," one laughed. "We cleaned out St. Jerome ... There were nearly 1,200 of us ..."

24

1847: In Montreal, QC, a heavy fall of snow accompanied by high winds drifted piles of snow so huge as to render exposed city streets extremely difficult to traverse, while country roads were made impassable. The city had the appearance of winter at the close of January. Concern was raised over delivery of the mails from Upper Canada to Boston for dispatch to Europe on the Hibernia ship.

25

First Quarter ●

1907: An early and remarkably severe thunderstorm tracked across Québec's Eastern Townships. Lightning struck a barn at Thetford and everything in it burned, including 9 head of cattle, a prized 2-year-old colt, and 6 sheep. It was quite a loss to the owner as there was no insurance.

26

2006: In Newfoundland and Labrador, the first and hopefully last major storm after St. Patrick's Day is called Sheila's Brush. Right on schedule, she shut down the capital for a day. Some 30 cm of snow and gale-force winds shut schools, businesses, and offices, and even snowplows could barely get around. The hardest part was that the rest of Canada was very mild from coast to almost coast.

27

2003: The driest winter on record in the Great Lakes basin prompted a call for people in the Waterloo, ON, region to take shorter showers and postpone laundry and car washes. Water levels in reservoirs and groundwater reserves plummeted to critical levels. Exacerbating the shortage, 9 wells were shut down for re-equipping in the aftermath of the Walkerton water crisis.

28

1940: Strong winds drifted snow to over 1 m, blocking roads to the orphanage near Point-aux-Trembles, QC. Everyday, the nuns expected the snow along the 2.5 km road to be cleared. Meanwhile, two heroes—a milkman and a baker—hailed more than 400 litres of milk and 50 loaves of bread on toboggans daily over the snow drifts to the institution for the 400 small children and babies and many nuns.

29

1848: Niagara Falls suddenly fell extraordinarily silent. Several ladies traversed the river bed to mount dry Table Rock. Near old Chippewa Fort, 30 m beyond low-water mark, an old potash kettle, gun barrel, bayonets, muskets, and swords were discovered. In less than 48 hours, the water was at its usual level. The accumulation of ice at the river's egress from Lake Erie had blocked the outlet.

30

2004: A farmer along the Red River in Manitoba saved his home and 3 chicken barns from flooding by cleverly using his snow blower. When heavy rains flooded farmyards, he hooked the snow blower to his tractor and waded into the water. The snow blower threw the water over a farm road for 12 straight hours. The farmer changed clothes 8 times because the rain just kept coming down.




31

MARCH											
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Ice formations during spring breakup on Lake Winnipeg, MB / David Reede / David Reede Photography

APRIL 2007

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1918: Riotous civilians and police forces clashed for 4 hours in Québec City, QC. Thick fog covering the city hampered the military in locating the disturbers. Snipers fired at soldiers from doorways and from behind snowbanks, escaping into the fog after firing. The battle left 3 dead, 6 wounded, and 100 arrested.</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>1882: The schooner <i>Promise</i> left Newfoundland loaded with codfish. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, she was crushed by a huge ice floe and began leaking badly. A strong gale and very high sea and swell among the ice floes made any boat's survival unlikely, but the crew was able to transfer to a sealing brigantine. Both crews worked vigorously to save the cod before the <i>Promise</i> went under.</p> <p>Full Moon </p>	<p>1923: Sault Ste. Marie, ON, organized a shovelling bee of 500 citizens to clear the streets of snow that was 5 m deep in places. In those years, heavy snowfalls were a blessing for the homeless and unemployed, who could earn a much-needed few dollars by clearing snow from roads and sidewalks.</p> <p>Passover Begins</p>	<p>2005: It was the prisoner's release date. Instead, he got another 15 days for escaping from New Brunswick's Dalhousie prison. After somehow getting a car, he drove into the Richibucto, NB, area in a blizzard. "It was a bad storm and no one was supposed to be on the road," the judge was told. The RCMP stopped the car to warn the driver, but quickly realized he was a fugitive and arrested him.</p>	<p>2005: Record January rainfall, February sunshine, and warm March temperatures left pathetic snow conditions in British Columbia. At Mount Washington on Vancouver Island, the resort typically receives 9 m annually. At the peak of ski season, there was a paltry 12% of normal. Ironically, the resort received 360 cm, the biggest April snowfall in 25 years, for the best end-of-season skiing in memory.</p>	<p>1952: A flood crest, weighted with huge boulders piled atop cakes of ice, swept away the new Saskatchewan Landing bridge near Swift Current, SK. The force hurled 3 steel centre spans, weighing 100s of tonnes, more than 10 m into the South Saskatchewan River. They disappeared in 15 seconds, without a trace. Ice and water battered the bridge for 3 days, before breaking it apart.</p> <p>Good Friday</p>	<p>1955: Oespite soggy Montreal, QC, streets, widening potholes, and clogged drains, no motorist had been charged with splashing. Montrealers may have been unaware of the city's anti-splashing bylaw: "When water, mud or slush is lying on the street, every driver shall so reduce the speed of his vehicle as to prevent splashing any pedestrian." The maximum fine was \$40 and costs or 60 days in jail.</p>
<p>1881: During thick fog, a train from Hamilton, ON, backed into the train station at Barrie, ON, and collided with a freight train, killing an engineer and injuring several others. The force of the collision drove the tender into the passenger coach, wrecking it, the engine, a baggage car, and some flat cars. Visibility was so poor that those on the platform could not see the train 0.5 km away.</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p>	<p>1927: Across the Prairies, heavy winds piled snow into 1- to 2-m-high drifts. Torrential rains brought rivers and streams in Manitoba to flood levels, leaving farms isolated and fields water-logged. During the blizzard, 2 freight trains collided, killing 2 trainmen, near Seven Persons, AB, and 3 people from Swift Current, SK, drowned when their car dashed over an embankment and into a river.</p> <p>Easter Monday</p>	<p>1888: Montreal, QC, streets filled with soft, mushy snow and standing water made getting around difficult and dangerous for pedestrians and horses. This, plus the filth in the streets that spring, increased fears that a smallpox epidemic would return. A slow clean up prompted 200 citizens, with 50 wagons, to pitch in, only to have the local council ridicule them for their efforts.</p> <p>Last Quarter </p>	<p>1941: Three years ago, lightning struck a barn in West Montrose, ON. Two years later, it was rebuilt. Then, on Good Friday, lightning struck and burned it again. A farmer purchased the remains and moved them to his farm, where 200 men helped him raise the frame. Thirty women prepared food to feed the gang of men in an old fashioned barn raising.</p>	<p>2005: Responding to a break-in in Port Colborne, ON, police saw a man running from the crime scene. He fled to the Welland Canal and was warned not to jump. The weather was dry, but at 5.7°C, and the water colder, it was hardly warm enough for a swim. He jumped anyway and swam across the canal, where he hung onto the edge until the fire department fished him out.</p>	<p>2005: A small patrol of Canadian soldiers driving snowmobiles fanned out across the Arctic archipelago on sovereignty manoeuvres. They reached Isachsen 4 days later. High winds rocked trailers on huge I-frames and wheels 1 m in diameter. Despite severely reduced visibility, the patrol arrived within 500 m of its destination. The worst anyone suffered after the -30°C trek was minor frostbite.</p> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>Weather Quiz On the last day of Environment Canada's 5-day forecast, how accurate is the temperature forecast?</p> <p>1) 91% 2) 86% 3) 71% 4) 66% 5) 61%</p>
<p>1881: Snow, freezing rain, and rain greeted Good Friday churchgoers in Fredericton, NB. Winds tore 3 planks from around the tower roof of the government buildings. Fences collapsed in the gale, and a few chimney pots and some slate from the City Hall tower blew to places unknown. The Saint John River rose into a fury, forcing ferries to proceed slowly.</p>	<p>1920: A terrible feed shortage in Alberta, due to years of poor crops and heavy snow this winter, left thousands of cattle and horses dead across the province. At one place, 2 horses stood upright, frozen in 1 m of snow. One rancher, before abandoning his place, shot all that was left of his herd of 150 cattle, worth a small fortune had he sold it last fall.</p>	<p>1955: Ice pressed against the northeast coast of Newfoundland for 3 weeks, each wind storm driving it deeper and tighter into small bays and inlets. In Bonavista Bay, a raging blizzard caused squeezed ice floes to crush a 94-tonne coastal vessel, forcing the captain and crew to abandon ship. They walked over several kilometres of creaking ice through 40 cm of snow and gale-force winds.</p> <p>New Moon </p>	<p>2001: A dust storm whipped up days ago over China and Mongolia coloured the skies over the western part of Canada and the United States a milky white.</p>	<p>1865: A vicious wind storm near Spencerville, ON, interfered with train traffic on the Ottawa and Prescott rail line. Powerful winds felled a huge pine tree onto the engine of a moving train, smashing the cab and knocking down the driver and fireman. The engineer was cut about the face but, fortunately, was not seriously hurt.</p>	<p>1909: Broken ice blocking the Chaudière River in Québec forced water over its banks in all directions. Water filled the town of Beauceville, QC, 3 m deep, its main street resembling a Venetian canal. Cellars flooded, extinguishing furnaces. Verandas, kiosks, trees, fences, and wooden sidewalks floated down the river. A young boy turned the floating sidewalks into an improvised ferry service.</p>	<p>1925: The Japanese freighter <i>Raifuku Maru</i>, with a crew of 48, foundered and sank in mountainous seas 160 km southwest of Sable Island. Her grain cargo had shifted, causing a 30-degree list. Waves shattered all of the lifeboats. The liner <i>Homer</i> answered the SOS call, but it could not get close to the disabled craft and passengers watched in horror as the freighter went down with all its crew.</p>

1902: Lightning struck a building in Hull, QC, during a morning electrical storm. The ensuing fire destroyed a business block and livery stable. The fire cremated all 6 members of one family. In the livery stable, under the blackened carcass of a horse, officials uncovered the body of the hired man.

22

2005: Often called "Canada's banana belt," Windsor, ON, is one of the least snowy cities in eastern Canada. Not this year! From November 2004 through April 2005, it received 225.5 cm of record-breaking snow, about 100 cm more than normal. The record seemed out of reach, but a freak spring snowstorm made it the snowiest winter ever. It was also the snowiest April ever, with a total of 31.6 cm.

23

1921: Charles M. Hatfield, a professional rainmaker from Los Angeles, CA, arrived in Medicine Hat, AB, determined to make it rain 100 mm between May 1 and July 31. For this, he would earn \$8,000; 75 mm was worth \$4,000. When 123.7 mm of rain fell, he won his full fee. The previous 37 years of weather statistics for southern Alberta revealed that he had a 92% chance of making at least \$4,000.

24

2005: Several hours of freezing rain weighted down 8 Hydro-Québec towers near Port-Cartier, QC. The towers along the 735-kV line linking Churchill Falls, NL, and Lévis, QC, collapsed. Bad weather also hindered repair crews, as observers could only survey the area from the air.

25

1937: Floodwaters from the Thames River in London, ON, inundated basements and entire homes. Residents escaped through second-storey windows and off veranda roofs. April had nearly 175 mm of rain, 125 mm in one day. One person rowed by a haystack where some cows and pigs were camped out. The pigs swam after his boat and tried to climb in. Frightened cats that ran into basements drowned.

26

1934: The entire population of Fort Vermillion, AB, fled to escape rising waters from the flooding Peace River, caused by ice jams just above town. Ice-infested waters wrecked homes, inundated buildings, and felled telegraph towers. Massive ice cakes ground structures into pieces. The townspeople spent the night camped in the hills, watching their property and possessions being destroyed.

27

2005: As much as 100 mm of rain fell across Québec and New Brunswick just as snow was melting feverishly. Rivers across Québec overflowed, causing landslides and washed-out roads. In the village of Petite-Rivière-St-François, QC, rising waters forced over 25 families from their homes, some for more than a week. Damage to 30 homes was so extensive that they were condemned.

28

Earth Day

First Quarter 

1903: In about 90 seconds, 82 million tonnes of limestone sheered off the east face of Turtle Mountain, AB, and roared down into Crowsnest Pass. April snowmelt and rain filled the mountain fissures. When it turned colder, the water froze and "the mountain that moves" reached its breaking point. It took with it a coal mine entrance, 2 km of railway, and part of Frank, AB. Nearly 70 people died.

29

2003: With bad weather forecast, officials delayed opening the Prince Edward Island and North Shore lobster season. When foul weather failed to materialize, frustrated fishers were outraged over losing a day's revenue in an already short season. A lost day early in the season is especially harmful because catches are more plentiful and the meat is tastier than later in the season.




30

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Thunderstorm clouds hang over downtown Toronto, ON / Layne Kennedy / Corbis

MAY 2007

JUNE						
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2003: Outside Windsor, ON, a microburst or weak tornado ripped the roof off a barn, knocked over trees, flung window air-conditioning units to the ground, and bent TV antennas. At one house, the bedroom windows, frame and all, imploded. At another, a 6-year-old boy urged his family to flee to the basement. He had just learned about tornado home safety in his Grade 1 class. <div>1</div>	1921: Sparks from a passing locomotive likely started a fire that ravaged Stewiacke, NS's business district. The fire burned furniture and personal effects in the local hotel, consumed merchandise from several stores, and destroyed 10 buildings. The wind at the time was drafty and veering, so workers no sooner halted the fire in one direction than wind-fanned flames attacked from another. <div>2</div> <div>Full Moon </div>	1902: A storm on the Prairies that began shortly before midnight and raged all next day was one of the worst ever seen. The gale blew driving torrents of rain through the streets of Calgary, AB. Rain filled countless cellars and washed out the centre span of the new Weaselhead Bridge. Continuing heavy rains washed away railway beds and damaged grades from Calgary to the Kootenays. <div>3</div>	1952: Howling winds up to 80 km/h swept across Manitoba, damaging crops and fanning forest fires. Described as "one of the worst dust storms since the dry thirties," drifting soil near Brandon battered crops and filled ditches. In Winnipeg, the lee side of one resident's freshly painted fence gleamed, but he could almost plant potatoes in the windward side, richly coated with prairie dirt. <div>4</div>	2004: Unseasonably cool weather in Regina, SK, forced baseball prospects from across the province indoors. The players threw off a temporary mound in a local gymnasium in front of 8 scouts and 2 Major League Baseball representatives. One pitching prospect wanted to face some hitters outside, where the velocity of his throws would increase in warm weather. He hadn't seen a live hitter this season. <div>5</div>
1868: Sunstrokes were so common that newspapers offered remedies: Cold water should be immediately poured over the head of the person and mustard applied to the back of the neck, the wrists, knees, and soles of the feet. To safeguard against sunstroke, more than the usual head covering is needed, for instance, a handkerchief or, better, green leaves from the common plantain placed in the hat. <div>6</div>	1960: The rain-swelled Mattagami River flooded a quarter of Timmins, ON, to more than 1 m deep. Some 600 residents were ordered from their homes. A mother of 8 refused to leave her 40 cows. Fish and game clubs donated 45 boats to rescue victims. Evacuees sheltered in halls and local armories. Log booms burst, and 30,000 logs surged downriver, threatening the bridge between Timmins and Mountjoy. <div>7</div>	1901: At noon, lightning struck the Bullock School, about 8 km from Beebe-Plain, QC. The teacher was at dinner and escaped. About a dozen people in the building were all more or less injured. Two girls who were sitting together had their hair burned and their shoes torn from their feet. They remained unconscious and paralyzed in their lower limbs for some time. <div>8</div>	1950: During the historic Winnipeg, MB, flood, a portly East Kildonan housewife, carrying a tray of sandwiches, waded through a sea of mud to a dike-side canteen. Suddenly, the sandwich bearer squealed as one of her rubber boots stuck fast in the mud. Three soldiers jumped to the rescue. She tugged, the soldiers pulled, the boot came clear, and the sandwiches were delivered. All dikers cheered. <div>9</div> <div>Last Quarter </div>	1939: Another dust storm swept across the Prairies. Winnipegers rubbed grit from their eyes and hid indoors. Many homes and offices burned lights to dispel the oppressive gloom. At Bagot, MB, farmers had to sow their crops again. At Chaplin, SK, farmers hoped the drifting soil would rid the country of grasshoppers. At Moose Jaw, SK, winds tore down chimneys, fences, and small buildings. <div>10</div>	1986: A powerful tornado struck south of Morden, MB, tearing up farm buildings and ripping off the tops of evergreens. Roof beams from a shed were carried 100 m through the air and driven 30 cm into the ground. One farmer was never busier, spending most of the day leading parades of reporters, a busload of teenagers, and other curious strangers around his battered property to stare at damage. <div>11</div>	2005: Two snowmobilers went missing near Iqaluit, NU. A search using a Hercules aircraft from Greenwood, NS, was called off due to poor visibility in blowing snow and whiteout conditions. After 20 hours, a ground search team found one of the men. He had built a small tunnel to keep warm against the wind and cold. Unfortunately, his companion succumbed to the cold. <div>12</div>
Weather Quiz Which province/territory has the greatest range between the highest and lowest temperature ever recorded? 1) Northwest Territories 2) Alberta 3) Yukon Territory 4) Manitoba 5) Québec <i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i> <div>13</div> <div>Mother's Day</div>	1951: Lightning struck the roof of an unoccupied farmhouse in the district of Dunleath, SK. The bolt twisted the walls, reduced furniture to rubbish, and scorched every electrical wall switch. Every window was blown outwards, scattering glass 100 m. A cabinet's doors were broken into fine splinters and china and glassware dumped nearby. Trinkets and photos sitting 1 m away were untouched. <div>14</div>	1922: For 9 hours in dark and thick fog, shipwrecked sailors from the British steamer <i>Arbeeco</i> clung to Renew's Head, near Cape Race, NL. The rocks were less than 2 m above water at low tide, and the slightest breeze would drown every man. Just as the tide was rising, some of the men freed the lifeboat from the smashed ship and all the men piled in. Once the boat could float, they rowed to shore. <div>15</div>	2005: In Rankin Inlet, NU, nearly 300 cm of snow fell from September to May inclusive, about 250% more than normal. On average, only one snowfall of 12 cm or more occurs each year at Rankin Inlet. This winter, it happened 10 times. High-snowfall records were set for April and October. The 26.4 cm of snow on April 28 was the heaviest one-day snowfall ever. <div>16</div> <div>New Moon </div>	2005: Stiff winds, grey skies, and drizzle greeted the Queen and Prince Philip as they arrived to launch centennial celebrations in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Unfortunately, dismal weather plagued them for all but 2 of their 9-day tour. To their credit, the Royals remained in good spirits their entire visit. Happily, the weather was near perfect for their weekend vacation in Jasper, AB. <div>17</div>	1924: Twenty-two crewmen and passengers were aboard the steamer <i>Orinoco</i> when it sank in a gale off Agawa Bay in Lake Superior. The lifeboats were too small to accommodate all on board. Seeing the over-burdened condition of the lifeboats, the captain, the wheelman, and the chief engineer refused to leave their posts and perished. <div>18</div>	1780: In southeastern Canada and in New England, darkness fell throughout the late morning. By 2:00 PM, it was so dark that birds stopped singing and people lit candles to read. Some believed that judgment day was at hand, others that it was an eclipse or volcanic eruption. Actually, a forest fire near Lake Champlain had sent smoke too high for people to smell but dark enough to block the sun. <div>19</div>

1964: A series of small tornadoes, followed by wind-driven rain, hit Newbrook, AB. The vortices twisted TV antennas like pretzels. At the Newbrook Meteor Observatory, heavy porch steps were ripped out and deposited some distance away. A chimney cap from the local hardware store resembled a flying saucer as it sailed through a window. One resident lost and then acquired a cover for his rain barrel.

20

2005: Heavy rainfall on the May long weekend caused rivers and lakes along Nova Scotia's south shore to flood. In Lunenburg, NS, swamped homes, closed bridges, and washed-away roads led to a state of emergency and numerous evacuations. The wettest May on record delayed crop planting 2 to 3 weeks. At Halifax, NS, only one day was above 18°C and over half the days had less than 1 hour of sun.

21

Victoria Day

1911: Around supper hour, gale-force winds began blowing on the west side of Medicine Hat, AB. The lumber yard was the big loser as the full force of the storm scattered lumber for 0.5 km. A large board flew through a hardware store window, wrecking a display of fancy lamps. The storm left one citizen with only an alarm clock—still running—which he found 10 m from where his house had stood.

22

2005: At Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, AB, chilly rain and gusty winds cut short a centennial performance before the Queen and Prince Philip and some 15,000 hardy souls. Just seconds after cutting the centennial cake, the Queen was almost jabbed by a wayward metal spoke of the umbrella carried by Alberta Premier Klein. It all but touched her face and nearly knocked off her furry hat.

23

First Quarter ☾

2004: The cool, rainy long weekend irked young campers at Moose Mountain Provincial Park in Saskatchewan. Vandals broke 24 taps, pulled off doors, smashed mirrors and paper dispensers, and dumped cleaning supplies. Forty people were evicted from the park and 200 got warnings. To the south, the Saskatchewan Roughriders' training camp resembled a "raining" camp. The rain did please many farmers.

24

2005: New Brunswick's upper Saint John River valley lost over 150 cm of snowpack in 5 weeks. The rapid melt filled the river to the brim. Copious rains on the May long weekend caused floods that forced some 40 families from their homes and washed out major sections of highways and city roads. Water was still 0.5 m lower than levels reached in 1973's one-in-200-year flood.

25

1941: Just as forest fires in the bushlands of northern Ontario and Quebec were being controlled, news came that 3 men from Bergeronnes, QC, had drowned after running into the Rivière du Sault aux Cochons to escape the flames. An Ontario MLA said that fire losses around Sudbury, ON, would cost the government \$1 million in revenue and \$5 million in timber losses.

26

2005: High winds, large snowfalls, and freezing temperatures trapped 3 British Columbia climbers on Yukon's Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak. Unfortunately, conditions hampered rescue helicopters from reaching them. For 2 days, the trio was stuck without shelter at 5,500 m in a raging blizzard. Upon rescue, all 3 climbers were suffering hypothermia, severe frostbite, and altitude sickness.

27

1872: The *New York Times* published details of a series of catastrophes that struck the sealing fleet on the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. It reported that over 40 vessels, including 4 steamships, were dashed to pieces amid huge icebergs during a terrific hurricane and 4,000 seal hunters had died. Later reports had the crews from 12 downed vessels all saved, except for 60 men.

28

1835: Terrific winds lifted the roof off a Bathurst, NB, farmhouse and blew the barn into an adjoining lot. One of the farmer's children took shelter under a tree. His mother called him to leave the spot, which he scarcely had done when winds felled the tree. In another incident, the *Bathurst Courier* reported a tree struck by lightning was "shivered to atoms."

29

2005: A pilot flying a Cessna 172 from Calgary, AB, to Victoria, BC, landed on a busy highway near Hope, BC. When the weather closed in, she descended 800 m, but was still trapped in heavy cloud. She cruised low over Highway 3, waiting for an empty section between vehicles. On landing, the plane incurred only minor damage to a wing tip from hitting a sapling as it was steered off the highway.

30

☾

2005: A broad swath of low pressure stalled in the Gulf of Maine brought Maritimers one of the cloudiest, rainiest Mays ever. Farmers lost 3 weeks. Weeds flourished and frustrated gardeners invaded garden centres when the nasty weather ended. Moncton, NB, broke its all-time rainfall mark for May with 232.3 mm, surpassing the old record set in May 1990.

31

Full Moon ○

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JUNE 2007

JULY												
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>2005: Intense thunderstorms and accompanying tornadoes raked western Manitoba near Melita and Brandon and northeastward toward Riding Mountain National Park. Between 90 and 130 mm of rain fell, but an unofficial gauge indicated an unbelievable 230 mm over June 1-2. By mid-July, totals exceeded 4 times their usual, and Manitoba experienced its most widespread flooding on record.</p>	<p>1920: While every able-bodied man in northern New Brunswick worked night and day fighting wildfires, other residents prayed for rain. Their prayers were answered. A heavy downpour lasting 2 hours aroused the hopes of firefighters in Restigouche County, where fires burned the fiercest. Other parts of the province received enough moisture to bring some of the worst fires under control.</p>
<p>2005: A large forest fire burned dangerously close to Chibougamau in north-central Quebec, and 50 residents were evacuated by military transport. Dense smoke and poor weather prevented an attempted overnight landing. By fire season's end, Quebec had its greatest number of fires in 10 years, 2.4 times the average area burned, and some claimed fires hadn't been so widespread since the 1930s.</p>	<p>1932: A day of muggy heat (28.3°C) spawned an electrical storm with heavy rain in the Chaplin area of Saskatchewan. It flung utility poles across roads, blew down barns, coal sheds, and chicken houses, and overturned wagons. In Chaplin, the Alberta Pacific Elevator Company's oil house was lifted and carried several metres and a building filled with barrels was left in the middle of the road.</p> <p>World Environment Day</p>	<p>Weather Quiz What was the warmest temperature ever recorded in Greenland?</p> <p>1) 0°C 2) 10°C 3) 18°C 4) 25°C 5) over 30°C</p> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>2005: Over 200 mm of rain had fallen in southern Alberta, filling rivers, creeks, and streams. Stream-flow rates 15 times their usual had kayakers ecstatic. In June, Calgary got 247.6 mm of rain (normal was 79.8 mm), the wettest month ever recorded. More than 2,000 Calgarians fled their homes as floodwaters filled basements with foul-smelling sewage and raised concern about clean drinking water.</p>	<p>1894: Some of British Columbia's finest land lay below 18 m of water. Driftwood and debris from broken fences, ruined houses, and damaged bridges were everywhere. On the roofs of houses, dogs barked and hogs screamed. Half-starved cattle were tied on rafts, while those on shore seized floating animal carcasses for food. Ranches near Sumas were swept away.</p>	<p>2005: A single powerful lightning bolt struck a 10-year-old boy on a bike. He was knocked off his bike and suffered slight burns to his face and arms. An eyewitness heard "a loud explosion" and could smell the boy's singed hair. In the ambulance, the boy, in shock, had uncontrollable movements. A second boy was uninjured, but felt the shock in his head and jaw and complained of a headache.</p> <p>Last Quarter</p>	<p>2005: A severe thunderstorm followed by several smaller storms dumped 100 to 125 mm of rain on Barrie, ON, bringing waist-deep flooding. Penny-sized hail pelted the city centre. Barrie had just marked the 20th anniversary of a tornado that killed 8 people. Today's storm submerged cars to the windows and felled trees. Pedestrians fought the wind to stay upright and police closed flooded roads.</p>
<p>1904: A windstorm at Arcola, SK, did considerable damage. Winds blew off the roof of a mill and carried a stove 800 m away, destroyed the top of a livery barn, and upset several small barns. Parts of sidewalks were carried 100 m, lumber was scattered 0.5 km away, and store windows were broken. Rain spoiled store stocks. Miraculously, no one was injured and crops escaped ruin.</p>	<p>1842: A storm left 12 cm of snow on the ground near the Canada-United States border in Québec. Hundreds of sheep perished in the snow and cold. Conditions reminded old-timers of the snow and cold in the summer of 1816. That year, known as the year without summer, several people froze their hands and feet in June.</p>	<p>2005: After the UV (Ultra Violet) readings began to be rounded up, the UV index reached 11, or extreme. It was the first time the extreme category was used in Canada. The previous record was 10.3 in 1993. The high UV values were attributed, in part, to a 4% depletion in the ozone layer below pre-1980 values, due to emissions of ozone-depleting substances.</p>	<p>2005: Residents near Rockwood, ON, spotted a tornado twisting through the gray skies. A young girl worried about her horses as she watched the barnyard shed fly past her window, then saw a tree fold in half and an aluminum shed float through the air. Later, 3 horses were found in a nearby field. They had broken through an electrical fence and avoided the airborne shed.</p>	<p>2005: High humidity not only made hospital staff in Ottawa, ON, sweat, but also caused headaches for patients. Some 100 surgeries had been postponed, on the advice of hospital infection control groups. Ideal humidity inside operating rooms is between 40% and 60%. Higher levels foster growth of microbes and bacteria on surgical instruments and equipment, creating a higher risk of infection.</p> <p>New Moon</p>	<p>1852: Centuries ago, a major cause of death in Canada was not cold or snow but unbearable heat. Days of intense heat in Montreal, QC, overcame a labourer, only a few days arrived from Ireland. He expired before he could be removed to his residence. Another Irish immigrant, arrived just 6 days ago from Limerick, also succumbed in the torrid heat.</p>	<p>1952: The manager of the Red River Exhibition in Winnipeg, MB, pleaded with the famed sky dancers to refrain from climbing a 40-m pole to perform their aerial dance. But aerialists Benny and Betty said, "No!" As a 40-km/h wind swept overhead, a packed house watched the famed aerialists and show-ending fireworks. The show went on without a hitch.</p>

2005: High winds, intense rains, lightning strikes, and tornadoes tore through southeastern Saskatchewan. At Stoughton, lightning struck an oil tank and blew it 60 m into the air. At Melville, 100 mm of rain fell in 40 minutes, flooding streets and basements. Tornadoes near Maple Creek destroyed homes and garages, damaged construction trailers and trucks, and toppled a 120-m-tall crane.

17

Father's Day

1907: During a thunderstorm at Sutton, QC, lightning struck and killed a valuable mare and a fine colt. The owner had 2 mares, each with a colt, in his pasture, but the colt that was killed belonged to the uninjured mare. Lightning also struck and completely demolished an old cheese factory. A passerby received quite a nasty shock.

18

1958: Hot, dry weather persisted in Yukon. Suddenly, a dormant forest fire near Lake Laberge roared into life. The tinder-dry bush quickly ignited, sending pungent grey-black smoke thousands of metres into the air. The sun disappeared behind massive clouds. Grey ash, 2-cm thick and resembling a deep snowpack, covered Whitehorse. The mayor ordered residents to prepare to evacuate.

19

2005: With 2 weeks left in the lobster season off northeastern New Brunswick, catches were down 50%. Fishers blamed 5 weeks of windy weather. Lobsters stay put when gusting winds churn up waters and create strong currents that often mix up bottom waters and their content. Lobsters take advantage of the underwater vegetation scattered by wind gusts and eat at home.

20

1938: A small blaze ignited a stack of logs near Campbell River, BC. With no rain since mid-April, the fire smouldered underground. When the wind came up, the fire re-emerged and jumped across Lower Campbell Lake. Fire ash fell as far away as Portland, OR. Officials conscripted 1,700 mostly untrained men to fight the fire on Depression wages of 25 cents a day.

21

Summer Solstice
14:06 EDT

1923: During a vicious northeasterly gale, 2 lobster fishers drowned near Antigonish, NS. They ran a fishing smack, carrying lobsters to a packing plant, and had gone out to the smack in a dory. As they bailed out the hut, the dory went adrift and started to founder. Fishers on shore could not launch a rescue boat in the heavy wind and high sea. Their loss cast a gloom over the whole community.

22

First Quarter ☉

2005: Residents of Winnipeg, MB, dripped perspiration as the day's near-record humidex climbed, before breaking into a merciful thunderstorm around 5:00 PM. Citizens appeared exhausted and cranky. Medical personnel warned seniors, pregnant women, small children, and those with existing medical conditions to use special caution to prevent cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

23

1972: A tornado touched down on the west side of Maniwaki, QC. A mother and her son were killed when their mobile home was tossed nearly 100 m. Losses exceeded \$1 million, as 6 homes were destroyed, 15 others were damaged, and 50 new cars were piled into a heap. A house with 4 people was dropped onto a neighbour's roof. Many townspeople were saved because they were away, attending mass.

24

2005: The Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Saskatchewan Roughriders' regular-season opener at Taylor Field in Regina, SK, was delayed 30 minutes due to frequent lightning strikes that lit up the sky. The teams took to the turf amid rain and lightning for their pre-game warm-ups, but headed back to their respective locker rooms after the flashes became more common.

25

2005: Calgary, AB, experienced its biggest butterfly boom as thousands of the painted lady species made their largest migration north in over 20 years. From 10 to 100 times more of the species occurred throughout the province this year. A butterfly expert at the Calgary Zoo explained that weather systems that brought the city so much rain in June also blew in the butterflies from the south.

26

2004: A forest fire reached 2 tiny communities on the Yukon-British Columbia border, causing 19 people to flee their homes. Sprinklers were put on all threatened structures. Wind blew ash ahead of the fire, creating new fires. A weather inversion caused smoke to hover close to the ground and resulted in poor visibility. More than 86,498 ha burned, up from 3,672 ha to date in 2003.

27

2005: The strawberry harvest in Nova Scotia was 1 to 2 weeks late, due to heavy rains and cool spring temperatures. The berries desperately needed more sunshine to ripen and increase their sugar level. If it got too hot too quick, though, too many berries would ripen at once, shortening the season and causing a labour crunch and lower berry prices.

28

2005: Tourists often visited the spectacular Ste-Anne Roman Catholic Church, the heart and soul of the 300-strong Acadian community of Ste-Anne-de-Kent, NB. Sadly, the blessed church now lay in ruins, after a fire triggered by a lightning strike. Residents formed a human chain to pull religious artifacts from the burning church, but flames devoured more than 60 frescoes and a rare chandelier.

29

2005: Vancouver, BC, moped through the third-gloomiest June on record. The international airport had only 148.5 hours of sunshine; 229 hours is normal. For most of June, a persistent low-pressure system over the Queen Charlotte Islands covered the sky with lingering cloud. Garden, camping, and fishing scenes in the Harrison Ford film *Catch and Release* were constant victims of wet weather.

30

St-Jean-Baptiste Day

Full Moon ☾

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

Rainbow near Liebenthal, SK / J. A. Kraulis / Masterfile

JULY 2007

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2005: Heavy fog and runway upgrades at Halifax International Airport in Nova Scotia forced the cancellation of dozens of flights on the Canada Day weekend. The situation was repeated a week later, making successive weekends when hundreds of travellers either camped out at the air terminal or had to find alternative lodging. Warm air overriding cold offshore waters results in profuse fog.</p> <p>Canada Day</p>	<p>2005: Winnipeg, MB, recorded its second-highest river level since 1969 when the Red River rose to 6.1 m, but there were few problems. Torrential rains in June and July, though, closed more rural roads than during a winter storm. Paved highways were submerged for days, pasture land resembled rice paddies, and crop lands featured whitecaps. More than 1/4 of the province's prime farmland was too soggy to farm.</p>	<p>1879: Tornadoic winds and hail as large as 2 cm in diameter struck Harrisburg, ON, uprooting large trees and twisting others as if they were mere sticks. The storm demolished a Great Western Railway building and pushed 4 rail cars standing on a siding 600 m, although 2 brakes were engaged. Missiles of every description flew through the air, making it dangerous even for those sheltered inside.</p>	<p>1901: In Ottawa, ON, an intense heat spell, with the maximum temperature exceeding 36°C, led to the death of several city residents. During 8 days, no fewer than 43 heat-related deaths were registered with the city clerk, the great majority of them being infants.</p>	<p>2005: Montreal, QC, residents cleaned up after a brief but powerful downpour disrupted evening rush-hour traffic and left some cars submerged to their roof line. That storm dumped 64 mm of rain, wreaking havoc on city roads for the fourth time in less than a month. The latest storm snarled afternoon rush-hour traffic, again leaving cars in roof-high water. The Decarie Expressway was closed.</p>	<p>1922: Hot, dry winds moving through old-growth trees near Merville, BC, awakened a fire smouldering in the underbrush. Three firefighters took refuge under Black Creek Bridge. When it caught fire, they lay in the creek to escape the heat. The intense heat began to evaporate the creek water, and by the time the fire abated, the trio was lying in a steaming trickle of water.</p> <p>Aphelion 20:00 EDT</p>	<p>1896: The steamer <i>Capulet</i> got lost in thick fog off St. Mary's Bay, NL, and wrecked upon the rocks. Had it been night or rough weather, all aboard would have drowned. Attempts to find a landing place for small boats failed. Finally, an English naval officer landed, scaled the cliffs, and found a fishing craft to take the passengers to Placentia. From there, they took a train to St. John's.</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>
<p>2004: At Yellowknife, NT, a temperature of 29.7°C and very dry conditions made it ideal for the formation of dust devils. An intense mini twister 10 m across sprang up, tearing plastic covering off boats and sucking debris from a garbage bin before heading toward a cemetery. Locals thought it was a tornado. Like most dust devils, it lasted a very short time.</p>	<p>2005: After 2 Calgary, AB, climbers were lost in a large slide on Mount Athabasca in Jasper National Park, an unprecedented summer avalanche warning was issued. The avalanche was about 300 m wide and up to 80 cm thick. In the past 3 weeks, several avalanches had occurred. A large snowfall, along with heavy rain in June, created a rain-soaked snowpack covered by a thin crust at higher elevations.</p>	<p>1881: An ominous "sky green" hue signalled a storm that was destructive as well as beautiful. In Stanley, NB, the winds unroofed a barn and blew down Leigh House. Flames from a burning barn were doused by workers throwing pails of water, but the next morning the barn was gone. Winds had blown the wood remains near a mill, where the debris stuck fast on a sandbar.</p>	<p>1874: Very high winds, torrential rains, and hail the size of a blackbird's egg became what locals called a perfect hurricane. Windows in several houses were broken, most of the crops in southern Manitoba were destroyed, and fences were blown down, allowing cattle to trample the fields. A large Hudson Bay boat outside the wall of Lower Fort Gary was dragged 60 m and left standing on its keel.</p>	<p>2005: You know it's hot when thieves start stealing ice. In Renfrew, ON, about 100 bags of ice disappeared from a large outdoor cooler at a highway restaurant. With temperatures of 33°C, the police knew the evidence was long gone, melted away in the blistering July heat. Instead, they would keep an eye out for any large quantity of plastic ice bags.</p>	<p>1856: A tornado tracked across southern Ontario and Quebec. Huge oaks and maples swayed like ships' masts and wood from farmhouses, barns, and fences was swept away like chaff. Water was sucked from a pond, leaving its bottom dry. Horses were lifted and carried some distance and sawmills were stripped of their lumber. A sheep was found beneath an iron kettle, which was fixed on its head.</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>2005: Mosquito-fogging trucks moved through Winnipeg, MB, when mosquito traps averaged a whopping 558 bugs, the worst-ever mosquito invasion. A 1994 outbreak came close, but the average didn't top 500. Heavy rains throughout June and July flooded farmlands and fields, leaving perfect mosquito-breeding conditions. For days, as Winnipeg basked in 30°C, the mosquito population exploded.</p>
<p>1961: A boy in Ontario survived when lightning killed his Labrador dog. The teenager was in a deckchair when a lightning bolt struck a nearby tree and travelled along a chain to the dog's collar. The dog died instantly. The boy, who was stroking the dog's head, went rigid and passed out. Revived in about 2 minutes, he recalled hearing a loud bang, described by his father as the sound of cannon.</p>	<p>2005: At the Grand Prix of Edmonton, AB, some 66,250 fans sat through a 3-hour downpour that transformed the race course from a dusty playground to a slithering mud pit. Said Canadian-born, race-car-driver Paul Tracy: "This is a great day up here. I heard you guys had an outdoor hockey game ... it was like -35°C. So this day is a beautiful day."</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>What percentage of Canadian homes has air conditioning?</p> <p>1) 20% 2) 33% 3) 40% 4) 50% 5) 66%</p> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>1856: Lightning struck a house in Chatham, NB, killing 2 young girls. The father of one of the girls threw a barrel of flour on the fire from an upstairs window. He then took his injured wife outside, where she told him that both girls were dead. He went back in and saw them standing at a table, holding dishes. As soon as he touched them, they both fell dead.</p>	<p>1926: Over 60,000 acres of crops near Waldron, SK, were ruined by a tornado that killed 1 and injured 5. One person felt a rocking sensation, then awoke in rain, 200 m from the house. Buildings were demolished, trees uprooted, and transmission poles levelled. The Spy Hill train station was unroofed and boxcars overturned. At Gerald, hail broke windows and put fist-wide holes in car roofs.</p>	<p>1898: A professed rainmaker from Winnipeg, MB, told the mayor of Toronto, ON, that he would end Ontario's drought. "If the conditions are favourable," he wrote, "rain will come in 30 hours." He claimed the making of rain to be but a pastime. Light showers occurred for 3 days, but the rain amounted to a paltry 2.9 mm. Dryness continued for the rest of the summer.</p>	<p>1857: Fishing boats from Caraquet, NB, headed into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The day was very hot and calm, until day's end, when a severe gale sprang up. Some boats foundered, while others weighed anchor or were driven ashore, where many were smashed to pieces. From Miscou Island to Tracadie, the coast was strewn with wrecks. The storm killed 38 sailors and damaged 400 boats.</p>

2005: In the Nine Mile River in East Hants, NS, up to 1,000 silver-coloured shad died. Some floated on the surface, others rotted on shore. Environmental conditions—low-water levels, lack of oxygen, and very high water temperatures—may have suffocated the fish. Several Nova Scotia communities experienced their driest summer on record, some receiving only 32% of normal rainfall.

22

First Quarter 

1956: The *Montreal Star* reported: "Mayor Jean Drapeau, whose election 21 months previous hit his opponents like a thunderbolt, was himself on the receiving end of a lightning strike ..." Lightning hit his home's chimney. The mayor said, "There was a terrific crash and the lights went out." The wiring in the house was damaged, as were his television set and the controls for the garage doors.

23

1963: A tornado hit southern Alberta, leaving smashed farm buildings and tangled machinery. Near Medicine Hat, the storm ripped corrals into kindling, picked up a feeder and threw it 10 m, and lifted a double garage and tossed it 2 m, leaving a car and truck inside undamaged. Several huge elm trees were uprooted, and where a chicken coop once stood, there was neither coop nor chickens.

24

2005: In Kingsville, ON, Highway 3 was so hot that construction crews got their diamond-tipped saws stuck in it. The extreme heat caused the concrete to expand and the pressure from miles of road on each side locked in the saws. Crews had to use jackhammers to free them. The company tried cutting the concrete at 2:00 AM when it was cooler, but finally decided to resume work in mid-September.

25

2005: High river levels due to 6 weeks of intense rains forced officials in Winnipeg, MB, to cancel 2 dragon boat festivals and an annual rowing regatta. Also postponed were learn-to-row lessons. Never before had there been a summer where the Winnipeg Rowing Club couldn't row for half of July.

26

2005: Passengers who paid for a 5-night cruise, with a 2-day visit to sunny Bermuda, had to settle for swirling fog in the Maritimes. Their ship stopped in Saint John, NB, then Halifax, NS, because Tropical Storm Franklin was forecast to stir up seas around Bermuda. Said one passenger: "Instead of making a right, we made a left. Nothing against Canada, but we wanted ... a warm-weather climate."

27

2002: Over 30 years, Norman Bethune Sanson hiked 1,000 times up Sulphur Mountain to check the weather station. Every other week, Sanson, the Banff weatherman and Park Museum curator from 1896 to 1931, made detailed records of the area's weather patterns and its flora and fauna. On this day, a Parks Canada guide took a group of hikers up the mountain to honour Sanson on Parks Day.

28

1941: In Waterloo, ON, lightning struck the home of a family grieving their young daughter, who had died 2 days earlier. The bolt struck as their son turned off the cellar lights. The shock held his hand to the switch and his arm went stiff. All of the cellar's light bulbs exploded, the switch box and meter blew from the wall, 2 windows broke, and a chunk was dug out of the concrete wall.

29

Full Moon 

2005: Just north of Merritt, BC, a car crashed into a ditch and ignited on the Coquihalla Highway. The fire spread quickly into the forest. In 2 days, the blaze was only 70% contained and covered 150 ha. Three water trucks, 75 firefighters, and 6 helicopters fought the fire. A weather front brought strong and variable winds that spread the shifting flames.

30

2005: Thunderstorms in southeastern Manitoba uprooted trees, flooded underpasses, and knocked out power. Wind speeds reached 93 km/h near Carman, and golf-ball-sized hailstones pelted Selkirk and Lockport. In Sandilands, 800 pine trees were ripped from the ground, and motorists drove down ditches to avoid debris on the road. Near Otterburne, 50,000-lb irrigation wheels were sheered in half.

31

AUGUST 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<div>2005: According to a UFO-monitoring group, UFO reports in Canada were down by 36% from the same time last year. This dearth of reported sightings was surprising as, in summer, people at cottages or camping out look at the sky more. The fact that it was the wettest summer on record in Canada and largely overcast skies prevailed even when it was not raining might explain the low number.</div> <div>1</div>	<div>2005: Air France Flight 350 landed in a driving rainstorm at Lester Pearson International Airport in Toronto, ON. The jet overran the runway, slammed into a ditch, and burst into flames, but, miraculously, the more than 300 people aboard survived. Shifting, shearing winds with strong gusts, a downpour that reduced visibility, and frequent lightning flashes may have contributed to the accident.</div> <div>2</div>	<div>2005: The hottest summer on record across southern Ontario was uncomfortable for both man and beast. At Metro Toronto Zoo, lions and polar bears ate popsicles. Mix blood, some meat, and water, then freeze to get a bloodsicle, a lion's version of a popsicle. Polar bears stayed in the water to keep cool and were fed fishsicles, a frozen concoction of herring, fruit, and food colouring.</div> <div>3</div>	<div>1923: Falling hailstones of unusual shapes and sizes did considerable damage in the vicinity of Fredericton, NB. In Waasis, the storm smashed countless windows and levelled crops. Many of the ice pebbles were as big as robins' eggs. Locals found the hailstones perfect for making ice cream.</div> <div>4</div>
<div>1955: A thunderstorm with high wind and pelling rain brought an end to a record-breaking heat wave in Rosemont, QC. The storm also downed wires, uprooted trees, felled telephone poles, and flooded railway underpasses. The rain was helpful but not drought ending. Some farmers still had to herd their young cattle to get fodder and water, something not normally done until November.</div> <div>5</div> <div>Last Quarter ☾</div>	<div>2005: A small vortex struck an outdoor market in Port Moody, BC, knocking over tables and tents and tossing art and baked goods to the ground. The devilish winds snatched \$150 from the cash box of a part-time baker selling chocolate brownies and lemon squares. "Maybe someone else needed that money more than me," she laughed. "Pennies from heaven, but instead they got bills."</div> <div>6</div> <div>Civic Holiday</div>	<div>1891: In Medicine Hat, AB, a 3-year-old boy was killed while playing in his backyard. A gust of wind caused wet clothes on a line attached to a shed to start swinging. Tragically, the motion pulled the shed onto the child, crushing and killing him. A neighbour saw the accident and carried the bleeding boy into the house. A doctor arrived only to see him take his last breath.</div> <div>7</div>	<div>1939: A severe snowstorm on Eastern Baffin Island killed 2 Inuit families, 4 adults and 9 children in all. Nearly 2 m of snow fell in the days-long storm. Inside a tent half buried in snow laid the dead mother and her 4 children. A nearby note read: "Snowing long time, getting hungry." They had eaten their dogs as a last resort. The desperate father set out for help 150 km away, without snowshoes.</div> <div>8</div>	<div>2005: A Concordia University professor, hiking in a remote area of Killarney Provincial Park near Sudbury, ON, was killed when lightning hit the ground near his tent during a violent thunderstorm. Paramedics and police rushed to the area, but then had to hike about 600 m through dense bush and up craggy slopes to reach his campsite. The victim was found lying on the floor of the tent.</div> <div>9</div>	<div>2005: The number of dog bites in Winnipeg, MB, was declining. In 2004, only 152 dog bites were reported, fewer than half the record high of 427 in 1987. The city's director of animal services credited increased public attention, but also said, "Weather is a factor. If it is a really nice summer with lots of kids and dogs out, we see more bites. If it's a real icky summer, bites go down."</div> <div>10</div>	<div>1938: Exaggeration about the grasshoppers swooping across the Prairies was rampant. They ate handles off hoes and washing off lines; clouds of them blocked the sun; they bounced off windows, their bodies rattling; they ate holes in women's silk stockings; thousands on rail tracks stopped trains and trolleys; thousands more jumped from locked safety-deposit boxes [adapted from author James Gray].</div> <div>11</div>
<div>2005: Southern Ontario had an epidemic of swimmer's itch due to sweltering temperatures that promoted the growth of waterborne parasites. The worm parasite thrives in shallow waters around 22°C. Its larvae burrow into a swimmer's skin, triggering redness, swelling, and severe itching. Ordinarily, they die in humans in about 24 hours, but the effects can last for weeks.</div> <div>12</div> <div>New Moon ☾</div>	<div>1898: A cyclone struck east of Estevan, SK. At one farm, the house and stable were demolished and the cook stove dropped into the cellar. A 3-month-old baby was tossed about 100 m and, though not found for several hours, suffered few injuries. A wagon was picked up and carried over 2 km before being smashed into the ground and a mower was rolled over and over until not one piece could be found.</div> <div>13</div>	<div>1913: A tornado paced through the southern edge of Ogema, SK, where it destroyed a skating and curling arena. The twister killed 2 men sheltering in a shack that was blown to bits. One man was elderly and in poor health; the other man, his son, had had both legs amputated at the knees years earlier, after they were frozen in a blizzard.</div> <div>14</div>	<div>1923: One of the worst thunderstorms in years hit Hubbards, NS. A mother and her 2 daughters were at home with 4 friends when lightening struck their house, knocking bric-a-brac off the mantle, tearing wallpaper, and plucking 4 large window panes from their sashes. The winds lifted and splintered the floor, smashed glass in picture frames, and shattered a sideboard, pulling out its drawers.</div> <div>15</div>	<div>1909: Two terrific wind and rain storms passed over the Windsor, ON, region, inflicting serious damage. The winds tore off roofs and chimneys, damaged trees, injured several persons with flying debris, and unroofed 3 iron warehouses at the Hiram Walker distillery. The storms had sprung up quickly, catching many sailboats and canoes on the river, and reports of overturned boats were numerous.</div> <div>16</div>	<div>2005: Summer in Canada's northeastern boreal forest was the second warmest in nearly 60 years (+1.6°C). In Québec, dry weather, high temperatures, and lightning caused almost 2 times the average area for the past 10 years to burn. In British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, cooler temperatures and the second wettest summer in over 50 years meant the fewest number of fires in 10 years.</div> <div>17</div>	<div>1901: Word reached Victoria, BC, from the north of a tragic marine disaster along the Alaskan Coast. The steamer <i>Islander</i> struck an iceberg off Douglas Island, Alaska, and sank almost immediately. Sixty-five lives were lost, with most of the casualties coming from Victoria.</div> <div>18</div>

2005: Thunderstorms tracked from Kitchener to Oshawa, ON, the resulting damage the highest insured loss in Ontario's history, over \$500 million. Two F2 tornadoes were spawned, gusting from 180 to 250 km/h and able to drive a pen 7 cm into a tree, splitting the trunk. A rare tornado warning was issued for Toronto, but it got torrential rains, large hail, straight-line winds, and flash flooding.

19

1923: During a fierce thunderstorm, lightning struck the flagpole on the tower of the School for the Deaf in Halifax, NS. The bolt travelled down the flagpole, then entered the building and knocked plaster from the walls of a bedroom. Nails, splintered shingles, and bits of wood littered the roof. The pupils were on vacation, so passersby had to tell the occupants about the lightning strike.

20

Discovery
Oay (YT)

First Quarter 

1854: A canoe carried passengers from a small Québec village to a barge in the Beauharnois Canal. In dense fog, the canoe went astray and drifted among rapids, where it upset. All those aboard clung to the canoe for 12 km. A boy swam to an island to save himself. One after another, the exhausted adults let go the trail support and drowned, though the boy made every effort to save them.

21

2005: A rare waterspout came within 0.5 km of the Olympic-training regatta racecourse in Kingston, ON. Officials suspended sailing and ushered 125 boats to shore. The spectacular twister was about 6 m in width and sprayed water over 15 m before heading toward open water where it dissipated. The regatta chairman said, in 40 years of sailing, he had never seen a waterspout in the Kingston harbour.

22

2005: More than 120 mm of rain fell in Maidstone, SK. The sudden downpour flooded scores of basements and left the town's 1,200 residents without water services for more than 24 hours. The mayor declared a state of emergency when the sewage plant began to backup. Fields became saturated and crops were knocked over in water and mud, dashing hopes of a bumper harvest.

23

2005: A powerful storm with strong southerly winds struck Yellowknife, NT. Hanging plants swayed and pots and pans clanged on houseboats in the harbour. The winds combined with a strong current to generate 1-m-high waves. Residents slept on their backs to avoid rolling out of bed, though the boat's motion woke many of them early with a mild case of seasickness.

24

1951: At Tory Hill, ON, lightning hit the chimney of a farmhouse. It tore through a living-room outlet into a bedroom, passing under a child's cot and through a wall above the sleeping parents. The charge tore the hobby pins from the hair of the mother, who felt aflame. Ceilings cracked, windows broke, and bricks were strewn about. Light bulbs shattered and plugs and outlets were bent.

25

1922: A torrential rainstorm flooded southern New Brunswick. In 10 hours, 132 mm fell in Saint John, the greatest on record, causing extensive damage to city buildings. In the vicinity of Bloomfield, the Kennebecasis River spilled its banks, flooding farmlands. Lightning disabled electric wires in Brockville and Rothsay and forced passengers aboard a Saint John streetcar to abandon it.

26

2003: A thunderstorm flooded streets in Winnipeg, MB, and slowed traffic to a crawl. More than 55 mm of rain fell in the city. Several property owners suffered house damage from flooded basements. Blocked catch basins contributed to street flooding. The saturated air caused several false alarms; however, police reported the heavy downpour kept criminals off the street.

27

1900: Downbursts and/or tornadoes struck from Whitewood to Wapella, SK. Farm buildings and schools were demolished, some reduced to matchwood, and debris scattered for miles. A house reportedly rolled 28 times, a huge mark left in the mud at each turn. Another was lifted and smashed into the ground, throwing family members onto the prairie, killing one child. Hundreds of livestock were killed.

28

2004: Lightning ended a marathon ball-hockey game near Ottawa, ON, but the 32 players still broke a world record and raised thousands of dollars for charity. Although 42 minutes short of their goal, they beat the Guinness World Record by lasting 27 hours, 18 minutes. The biggest problem was enduring 30°C heat and oppressive humidity; some players suffered mild sunstroke and bad sunburn.

29

Weather Quiz
How often does lightning strike in Canada in an average summer?

30

- 1) once every 3 seconds
- 2) once a minute
- 3) once an hour
- 4) 4 times a day
- 5) 12 times a day

(Answer on inside back cover)

1954: After Hurricane Carol caused over 60 deaths and \$3.2 billion in damages, the new practice of giving female names to weather beasts proved contentious. One lady said: "Everyone knows men are bigger blows ... it is an insult to ... give a feminine name to such a rambunctious, destructive altogether obnoxious display of elemental fury. Why not ... "Elmer" or "Ivan the Terrible" ...? Not Dolly."

31

Full Moon 

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SEPTEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1905: The steamship <i>Victorian</i> , with 350 passengers, general cargo, and mail for Great Britain, ran aground west of Québec City, QC. The liner had been steaming slowly in thick fog, rendered thicker by dense smoke from forest fires on shore. Her forward hold took on 6 m of water, and her stern protruded at an angle into the ship channel. 1
1866: Lightning struck the old Bixby house in Saint John, NB. It shattered a chimney, tore off shingles, and reduced rafters to splinters. Burning chimneys and ceilings filled bedrooms with smoke and debris. Sealed fireplaces burst open, throwing bricks about the apartments. Of the 5 families living there, no one was killed or even hurt, which was "nothing else than a Providential escape." 2	2004: A severe mid-afternoon thunderstorm moved along Highway 11 between Matheson and Iroquois Falls, ON. Baseball-sized hail accompanied damaging winds and a probable F1 tornado, with winds between 117 and 180 km/h, which overturned a fully loaded transport truck weighing 30,000 kg. The hail also damaged several vehicles. 3 Labour Day Last Quarter ☾	2005: Thousands converged on Regina's Wascana Centre to celebrate Saskatchewan's 100th birthday, as did 70,000 people in Saskatoon and thousands more in smaller northern centres. At 9:39 PM, shows featuring synchronized music, narration, and pyrotechnics blasted off at 15 provincial sites, all of them with near-perfect weather: unlimited visibility, clear skies, and 15° to 20°C temperatures. 4	2005: Many Manitobans spent a good part of their Labour Day holiday cleaning up from a vicious storm that toppled sheds, uprooted trees, and cut electricity for hours. The Selkirk area was hardest hit, with intense lightning, hail up to 3 cm in diameter, and winds gusting to 113 km/h. Just north of Selkirk, the wind flipped over 5 planes, including 1 tied down to a ¾-tonne concrete block. 5	1921: Never had such a drought gripped the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. Water was carried into towns and used sparingly. People refused to leave their houses for fear of fire. Scorched fields lost every trace of verdure and life. Wildfires raged along the South and North Mountains. Even when a 30-minute torrential rainstorm hit Hantsport, a minute later, it was as if no rain had fallen. 6	2005: In eastern Canada, warm, dry spells, with the odd heavy rain, were ideal for mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus. Of 3,988 dead birds checked for it, 447 (11%) tested positive, as did 21 horses. (Less than 12% of people get seriously ill.) In 2005, there were 225 clinical cases, with 12 deaths, but in 2006, 29 cases and no deaths. The record was 2002, with 1,388 cases and 14 deaths. 7	1899: Winds blew down the summer theatre at St. Thomas, ON's Pinafore Park, while actors rehearsed. One was badly injured; others had cuts and bruises. A cyclone over Oil City, ON, destroyed a mill and stables, lifted barn roofs, and scattered fences. A flying timber struck a citizen, badly injuring him. Another was hit by an airborne brick; a reporter described him as the "most serious loser." 8
1959: A tornado formed over Watson Lake, YT, raced down the shore and up the bank, and dissipated in the bush. Lake water began to swirl, gradually spiralling off the surface to form a water column 50 to 70 m high. The twister, accompanied by hailstones 2 cm in diameter, uprooted poplars, Jack pine, and spruce, from 10 to 25 m tall and in diameter, and piled them like matches. 9	2005: Heavy rain and 45 cm of snow lashed Alberta's Crownsnest Pass area, cutting power and snapping trees. In Calgary, rain flooded basements and stalled traffic. Farmers feared for their crops. In Saskatchewan, the storm damaged trees, toppled telephone poles, and soaked fields. At Leroy, some 175 mm of rain turned the creek into a river that swept away golf-course footbridges and swathed crops. 10	1920: Unprecedented winds and hail pummeled Ontario's Niagara fruit region, causing total losses to growers in an area about 1 km wide and 8 km long. Winds severed utility poles and dismantled orchards. Grape-laden vineyards were laid bare; just posts and wires remained. Cornfields were bereft of cobs and foliage, melon patches became garbage dumps, and onions were ripped from the ground. 11 New Moon ●	2005: Thick, acrid smoke from mysterious wildfires at one of the world's biggest peat bogs shrouded Vancouver, BC. Ecology-rich, 4,000-ha Burns Bog is called the Lower Mainland's lungs for its contribution to good air quality. The world's biggest water bombers fought the fires. Peat acts like a fuel, so when flames disappear, they just pop up elsewhere and the bog could burn for months. 12	1984: The day Pope John Paul II visited Moncton, NB, a cold mist sprinkled the 100,000 faithful gathered at Magnetic Hill for an open-air service. Just before his arrival, torrential rain fell, which ended before the mass began but turned the site into a giant mud bog. Ruts created by heavy machinery preparing the site turned into puddles. Planks laid across them acted as bridges for spectators. 13 Rosh Hashanah Begins	2003: Temperatures in Newfoundland soared above 30°C. Teachers sent students home early or held classes outside. Gander set new records when it exceeded 27°C on 5 consecutive days (September 13–17); the previous record was 4 days of 25°C or higher. Since 1937, only 11 September days had been at or warmer than 27°C. The 5 days added this year brought the record to 16. 14	2002: At Komoka, ON, lightning shook an entire house. Battery-operated toys started up, just like Toyland. The lightning charred and melted some toys and a stroller. A neighbour and the mother used any liquids they could find, including milk and juice, to douse the flames. The electrical energy from the lightning strike likely charged the air and the house contents with static electricity. 15

1841: During a severe thundershower, about 2 km northeast of Dunfermline, SK, small fishes fell from the clouds. Most of them were from 5 to 9 cm in length. Although they must have fallen a considerable distance, many were alive after the fall, jumping in the grass.

16

1862: The ship *Blue Jacket* left Portugal Cove, NL, with 19 aboard. It soon ran into a gale and listed to starboard. When a fire broke out, all but the engineer and a woman passenger climbed into lifeboats. Against all odds, the crew of a fishing skiff rescued them and returned to save the woman but not the engineer. Countless people say they've seen the ghost of the *Blue Jacket* in Conception Bay.

17

1991: Thunderstorms that spawned heavy rains, strong winds, and small tornadoes hit southern Manitoba before crossing into Ontario. The winds, in excess of 150 km/h, caused the biggest forest blowdown in Canadian history. In 15 minutes, some 20 to 30 million trees, about 7 years of normal harvesting for northwest Ontario mills, were ripped from the ground or snapped off at their base.

18

2005: Calgary, AB, wallowed in 365.6 mm of rain, almost 160 mm above normal, during June, July, and August, for the 5th wettest summer since record-keeping began in 1884. Health officials got 30 to 50 calls daily from residents concerned about house mould. Floods eroded banks and shifted bends in water courses. Some feared contaminated soil from a defunct gas plant had washed into Sheep River.

19

First Quarter ☾

1955: In Calgary, AB, 40,000 residents were expected to escape the city during Operation Lifesaver, a civil-defence test. Although an early-season snowstorm cut off a designated escape route, huge numbers of Calgarians left. In a 100-square-block area, a reporter found only 2 who would not take part. One had a sick wife who could not be moved; the other thought it all "a lot of nonsense."

20

1955: Hurricane Ione knocked out communications in St. John's, NL, but injured only a 13-year-old boy, throwing him against a moving car. Fishers heeded storm warnings and battened down their gear. Ione's 130 km/h winds carried sheets of water and spume over buildings and flung freight-shed roofs into the harbour. Staff at the U.S. naval base at Argentia continued all personnel to quarters.

21

2004: A huge circle of barley lay on the ground, about 3 km from Humboldt, SK. Some thought it was aliens sending cryptic messages. Others thought it was natural causes, like tornadoes or dust devils, or a hoax. The farmer's daughter could hardly stand in the middle of it as she became so dizzy. The farmer planned to compare crops planted from seed inside the circle with those from outside.

22

Yom Kippur

2005: In late July, AB and SK growers had high hopes for bumper crops, but at harvest time, rain and cold ruined any chance of a banner year. Crop quality fell to "feed grade."

23

Autumn Equinox
05:51 EDT

1921: In a stormy Montreal, QC, a car blown onto a sidewalk injured several people before smashing into a window. Rain, propelled by wind, rolled through the streets like an incoming tide.

30

1926: Torrential rains and gale-force winds raked southwest Ontario. In the Niagara area, almost-ripe peach trees sustained huge losses. In Milton, 72 mm of rain left gardens and farmland underwater, cellars flooded, and creeks overflowing. In Petrolia, a cyclone tangled communication wires, wrecked houses, toppled oil derricks, brought cars to a standstill, and blew a truck off the highway.

24

1964: Gale-force winds, accompanied by driving rain, freezing rain, and snow, downed a 33-m oil-drilling rig near Brooks, AB. Several tonnes of pipe dropped from the rig, crushing a work hut and injuring 4 workers. Damage to trees and communication lines was extensive but could have been much worse had the freezing rain and snow lasted longer.

25

2005: The Canadian Coast Guard rescued a British adventurer attempting to cross the Atlantic in a 4-m-long boat pulled by a kite. At sea for 39 days, he was adrift just east of Newfoundland and Labrador's Grand Banks when he capsized in 90 km/h winds and 5-m seas. Kite boating, around since 1800, features a spinnaker-like sail (like half a large parachute) connected by ropes to the boat's bow.

26

Full Moon ☾

2005: In Stephenville, NL, hundreds fled their homes after over 150 mm of rain breached 2 rivers and the downtown flooded. A state of emergency was declared when water washed out roads and swamped bridges. About 80 homes had water to first-floor windows. In a door-to-door evacuation, some people were rescued with a front-end loader and zodiac. Some could not return home for several weeks.

27

Weather Quiz:
What is the average lifetime of an Atlantic hurricane?

28

- 1) 5 days
- 2) 9 days
- 3) 2 weeks
- 4) 3 weeks
- 5) more than a month

(Answer on inside back cover)

2004: In Yellowknife, NT, 6 golfers playing in 2 local pubs' annual golf tournament faced knee-deep snow, a -8 wind chill, and less than 1 km visibility. Luckily, it was best ball as any shots hit off the fairway were lost for good. Even straight-and-true shots were hard to find, though golf balls were spray-painted red before tee off. The golfers' bags included extra clubs, shovels, and brooms.

29

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OCTOBER 2007

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2005: The World Half Marathon Championship was run in Edmonton, AB, in steady rain and 4°C. The weather was tough on all of the runners, especially those from Africa. The winner, from Tanzania, ran the 21-km race in 62 minutes, although he had never run in such weather. The women's winner, from Romania, had trained in similar conditions, unlike the runners-up from Netherlands and Kenya.

1

1956: At Gananoque, ON, lightning struck and paralyzed a veterinarian from the waist down when the charge hit the barn where he was attending a cow. The bolt killed the cow and then knocked down, but did not injure, 2 other persons. An eyewitness dragged the doctor to safety before the barn burned to the ground.

2

1938: A fierce wind struck near Transcona, MB. One structure collapsed and 4 workers were crushed beneath the debris of flying timbers, while 3 others working on top of the building were thrown 10 m to the ground. The sudden blast of wind shook the 2 south walls, before they tottered and collapsed.

3

1851: Some 22 vessels, mostly American fishing schooners, lay wrecked from the North Cape to East Point, PE. The waters were full of drowned seamen and hundreds of young sailors and students from fishing towns in Massachusetts. The calamity caused many New England families enormous grief. A captain's wife committed suicide upon hearing that her husband's vessel was lost with all on board.

4

1825: A forest fire swept through New Brunswick, destroying parts of Miramichi and killing at least 160 people before dying out. More than 15,000 square km were scorched, making it the largest fire in recorded Canadian history. Hot, dry weather helped trigger the conflagration, but mounds of forest litter, left from heavy timber cutting, fueled the fire and allowed it to spread.

5

1604: A freak snowstorm surprised French settlers on Passamaquoddy Bay, NB, who were unprepared for cold winds and persistent snow. The Europeans did not have enough wood or water for the coming winter. At freeze-up, they huddled by drafty fireplaces, with little to drink or eat. January brought 1 m of snow and gripped the settlers in deep depression, as the first deaths from scurvy occurred.

6

Last Quarter ☾

2005: Public Works Canada refurbished the black weather vane atop the historic Library of Parliament in Ottawa, ON. When the vane was stripped of its wrought-iron paint, the original blue colour was revealed. The vane was restored to that shade of blue, much to the delight of Conservative Party members. They liked the bold Tory blue, even though Public Works called it ultramarine.

7

2005: Alberta's Premier Ralph Klein was in Johannesburg, South Africa, to address the World Petroleum Congress. The premier was taking a final glance through his speaking notes when a huge gust of wind toppled the giant tent erected to house guests for his dinner speech. No one was hurt, but dinner was cancelled, as was Premier Klein's speech. [adapted from Tom Olsen in the *Calgary Herald*]

8

2005: Style-maven Martha Stewart's trip to the Windsor, NS, pumpkin festival was off. Heavy rain and fog kept her plane from departing Bar Harbour, Maine. She was to paddle a giant, hollowed-out pumpkin, complete with sail, across Lake Pesquid, along with 40 other competitors. Instead, her locally grown, 300-kg gourd, painted in her signature colours, was piloted by one of her field producers.

9

1902: A century ago, newspapers commonly had stories predicting the day's weather from phases of the moon. For example, on this day it was reported that because the moon changed last night and no cold arrived, warm weather would likely continue for a week, when there would be a full moon. Some felt cold weather would then set in with a vengeance.

10

1900: Across much of New Brunswick, it had rained steadily for 119 hours, with accumulations topping 250 mm. No trains moved across the province due to numerous washouts and swept-away bridges. Around Saint John, there were at least 25 washouts, some 50 m long and 8 m deep.

11

1875: A major storm lashed parts of Nova Scotia. On Cape Breton Island, several roads and bridges and thousands of dollars' worth of logs and cordwood were swept away. The crew from 3 wrecked ships arrived in Sydney in destitute condition. The heavy rains flooded the town's public gardens and washed away some embankments of the new railway extension.

12

2005: Thick fog blanketing southern Manitoba reduced highway visibility to a few car lengths, as bad as during a blizzard, and triggered countless accidents. It extended from Winnipeg to Brandon and north through the Interlake country. After a week of rain, left-over moisture had combined with near-freezing temperatures to generate fog. The absence of wind kept the saturated air in place.

13

New Moon ●

1989: Near Fort Erie, ON, a massive updraft blew a skydiver 450 m above a huge lightning-filled, grey storm cloud. Fearing he wouldn't be able to breathe at such a height, he cut his chute and free-fell 600 m before opening his second chute. After landing, he was dragged 60 m through a fence and some saplings and broke some of his bones.

14

1900: Unseasonably warm weather yielded a profuse second crop of superb raspberries on Ottawa, ON, area farms. The leaves of many trees remained so thick that shooting partridge was almost impossible. Tender grape and tomato vines had yet to be frost damaged, and dahlias and other annuals bloomed lushly. Old-timers recalled that, 10 years ago, creek ice was thick enough in mid-October for skating.

15

1862: A German architect, famous for building ice palaces in St. Petersburg, Russia, proposed erecting one on the St. Lawrence River, at Montreal, QC, as a tourist attraction. It would be 13 m high, 50 m long, 20 m deep, and all ice, except windows and doors. Rooms, including a ballroom, would be heated by stoves and warranted not to melt. It would be built in 4 weeks, for about \$3,500.

16

1932: Nearly 1 m of snow fell from Portage la Prairie to Brandon, MB. Workers toiled to clear roads and restore services and power. Frozen snow on wires broke 10 km of telephone lines. During the blizzard, residents could not see across the street. Snowfall at Brandon exceeded 25 cm. Drivers carried shovels and hundreds found the going difficult, especially hunters in the annual chicken shoot.

17

2004: Despite an early snowfall, a large number of the citizens of Edmonton, AB, voted in the civic election. Turnout was much higher than predicted, given the weather: -3°C, more than 10 cm of snow, and moderate winds. Roughly 42% of eligible voters cast ballots, up from the 2001 election, which drew 35%. Apparently, voters were unfazed by the weather and twiggled by an interesting contest.

18

2005: A hot-air balloon flight starting in New Hamburg, ON, ended in a crash landing south of Orangeville. The flight was the top prize at a charity auction, won months ago. It started smoothly but soon the wind picked up. On the forced landing, the balloon smashed into some trees before hitting the ground. Emergency personnel arrived quickly and all 11 flyers were taken to hospital.

19

Weather Quiz
In the 20th century, which province had the most number of deaths from land-falling hurricanes?

20

- 1) Nova Scotia
- 2) Ontario
- 3) Newfoundland and Labrador
- 4) Québec
- 5) New Brunswick

(Answer on inside back cover)

First Quarter ☾

1934: A 90-km/h gale hit Vancouver, BC, and the Lower Mainland, killing 2 people and injuring several. It capsized ships, crippled communication, blocked roads, and shut down public transit. Store fronts, street lamps, and shutters toppled, endangering passersby; awnings were shredded. Signs fell like ninepins, as did giant trees. The unemployed got jobs clearing debris and repairing damage.

21

1929: The worst gale in 20 years whipped the Great Lakes into a toaming fury, disrupting shipping and grounding several boats. At Pigeon Bay on Lake Erie, an anxious group watched helplessly as a lake steamer ran aground about 200 m offshore. When mountainous waves broke over a coal freighter's deck, the crew flashed distress signals to the life-saving station at Point Pelee, 12 km away.

22

2004: BC Hydro reported an unexpected income dip of \$166 million, primarily due to depleted water levels in reservoirs. A dry year with below-average snowpack left reservoirs at less-than-full capacity. Further, an unanticipated increase in electricity demand created a shortfall, and the company had to import electricity, which cost huge sums of money.

23

1933: Québec and the Maritimes slowly returned to normal after 48 hours of record snowfall and rain caused several deaths, massive damage, and traffic disruptions. In New Brunswick, the Big Salmon River rose 2 m in 90 minutes, leaving 7 loggers dead. Within 15 minutes of wading out to a sandbar in midstream, they were claimed by the swirling water. Tragically, those on shore could not help them.

24

1955: Shortly before noon, winds gusting over 60 km/h sent dust clouds sweeping through Calgary, AB. Two grass fires raged: one downtown and another near the Imperial Oil refinery. The gusting winds made fire fighting infinitely more difficult. In the city centre, pedestrians walked with heads bowed and eyes half-shut against dust and sand. Metal "No Parking" signs blew off curbs.

25

2005: For the most part, the massive storm, a remnant of Hurricane Wilma and Tropical Storm Alpha, stayed well out at sea off Nova Scotia. It caused a few flooding problems in Sydney, washing out streets and yards, and turned some fields into muddy bogs. Generally, the nastiest weather occurred out at sea, where waves built to 9 m.

26

Full Moon ○

1868: A violent storm visited Prince Edward County in Ontario. At the storm's peak, lightning struck the barn of a Sophiasburgh resident, consuming its contents, which included several horses and a quantity of grain. The conflagration was said to have illuminated the heavens to a great extent.

27

1921: A 3-masted schooner came ashore in one of the worst storms on Cape Breton Island, NS, in some 50 years. Down the full length of Sydney harbour, huge waves broke right over the wharves. The wind blew down city chimneys, destroyed windows, and felled telephone lines. The Glace Bay Baptist Church spire went through the church roof. At North Sydney, waves teetered 2 buildings on Queen Street.

28

1846: About six o'clock, during a snowstorm, there fell at Carleton, NB, near the residence of Mr. Tilton, a large shower of red angle worms. Thousands could be seen alive on the top of the snow; they were from 10 to 12 cm in length. [From *The Gleaner* in Miramichi, NB]

29

1921: A nor'easter ravaged the Newfoundland coast. At Harbor Breton, the storm destroyed 3 churches and felled telegraph lines. A badly damaged schooner lost her captain and 1 crew, and the dozens on board abandoned her at Pilley's Island. Many lost all their gear and their proceeds from last summer's fishing on the Labrador coast. They had to complete their journey by mail steamer and train.

30

1951: In Montreal, QC, a gale with gusts to 80 km/h fanned a factory blaze into a \$500,000 inferno. Even stronger gusts roared through city streets, uprooting a tree that fell on a small truck, killing the driver. At Queen Mary Veterans' Hospital, a 50-kg concrete block over the main entrance was dislodged by the wind and fell where, seconds before, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip had stood.

31

Halloween)

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NOVEMBER 2007

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				2004: Thieves broke into the Ranger Lake, ON, weather station. They damaged the station and stole recording equipment and batteries. A hunter discovered the break-in, and Crime Stoppers offered a reward for information.	1926: Northern Ontario endured the season's first real snowstorm when slushy snow and freezing rain fell, attended by high winds. Hornepayne recorded 20 cm of snow. Several northern towns were isolated temporarily, when added wind-loading felled dozens of telegraph poles and miles of ice-encrusted lines, especially south of Sudbury. Work gangs laboured for days to unscramble the tangled wires.	1978: Retired Environment Canada meteorologist Jay Anderson likes to recall the time he helped a turkey farmer save a wad of money. Anderson forecast a major blizzard to hit in 3 days, giving the farmer time to build a shelter for his birds. The farmer credited him with saving 1,000 turkeys. Said Anderson, "I don't know if I ever saved a human life, but I now know I saved a bunch of turkeys."
1951: Radioactive snow due to atomic test explosions in Nevada, and detected by National Research Council sensors, shrouded southern Ontario. Winds to 80 km/hr, drifts to 1.5 m deep, icy roads, and freezing temperatures left 15 dead and 100s of accidents in the Niagara region. In Niagara Falls, a skidding car crashed into a china shop. Welland County jail prisoners cleared sidewalks and steps.	2001: At a Fraser Valley, BC, ski resort, 2 Mounties and canine cop Ben pursued a robbery suspect in a howling snowstorm. They got lost, with no winter gear, and weather grounded their rescue chopper. When it eased up, search-and-rescue personnel jumped from a hovering helicopter and chainsawed enough trees for the pilot to land and the hypothermic duo and their tired dog to climb aboard.	2005: In North Vancouver, BC, Cypress Mountain resort opened for skiers, snowboarders, tobogganers, and snowshoers. It was the earliest season-opening day ever. The resort had had only 5 days of snow but it amounted to 55 cm. Whistler-Blackcomb also opened on the weekend, the earliest opening in 20 years.	1978: For 10 days, parts of British Columbia's Skeena Valley received an unheard-of amount of rain. Kiltmat recorded over 630 mm, with 179 mm on October 31 and 150 mm on November 5. At Terrace, the rain combined with runoff from melting snow to cause mudslides, highway and bridge washouts, and severing of the area's only natural gas pipeline. Many residents had to be evacuated by boat.	1857: In Québec City, QC, a 3-day rain soaked through the parliament's roof and into the Council Chamber. Luckily, the water was found in time to remove the new desks, but a large portion of the ceiling plaster fell. The library over the Chamber flooded because its floor was covered with oilcloth and retained water to a considerable depth. A honeycomb of buckets to catch drips covered the floor.	2005: Wacky weather struck Ontario. In Windsor, it was a balmy 20°C, while Ottawa fought freezing rain and Barrie had snow. In Hamilton, a rare F1 tornado hit about 4:00 PM and lasted 10 minutes. Packing winds to 180 km/h, it picked up and tossed dumpsters, buckled walls, peeled back roofs, and flipped cars. It was only the third tornado after November 9 recorded in Canada since the early 1900s.	2005: Foul, wet, and windy weather caused opening day of the Canadian inter-university men's soccer championship in Charlottetown, PE, to be postponed. The rain was manageable, but not the wind, which clipped along at 70 km/h. The ball wouldn't stay still, 130-kg dugouts overturned, and a goal net twice blew against a fence some 13 m away. Wind-driven rain stung like ice pellets.
Daylight Saving Time Ends					New Moon	
1923: Two brothers set out on an errand of mercy across a frozen lake near Naisberry, SK, in an attempt to free a wounded Canada Goose. The ice gave way 400 m from shore, leaving the brothers struggling in the freezing water and thick mud. Neighbours threw a rope to one brother and he survived. Sadly, the other brother slowly froze to death in the icy water before rescue could be made.	1863: During high winds, a widow woman from Belleville, ON, entered an outhouse that overhung the Moira River. Soon, strong gusts of wind swept the structure, together with the poor woman, into the river. The wreck floated away, but it contained no trace of the unfortunate woman. She left 3 young orphans.	2005: The battered remains of an American boat showed up off the coast of Halifax, NS. A month ago, its owner-sailor, caught in the stormy remnants of Hurricane Wilma, abandoned it when it was swamped by huge waves. Canadian and American coast guard officials launched a search and rescued the sailor 2 days later. Meanwhile, vandals stole the sailboat's mast and gear, worth about \$6,000 in all.	2005: A storm in southern Saskatchewan led to collisions, ditched vehicles, and 4 fatalities. In Regina, the CBC's "Just for Laughs" crew waited out its first big tour delay in 3 years. The Buffalo Pound Water Treatment plant's 50th anniversary party and a severe weather conference were cancelled. Southern Manitoba got 45 cm of snow; Winnipeg's letters-to-Santa campaign kickoff was postponed.	1929: In northern Saskatchewan, the fall was more than 4 degrees warmer than normal, too warm to ensure thick ice on winter roads travelled by heavily laden supply sleighs. A wagon with 40 fishers' gear broke through the ice on Canoe Lake. Holes were chopped every few metres ahead to check its thickness, less than 5 cm in places. The thin ice bent downward as the load passed along.	Weather Quiz Snowfall accounts for 5% of the world's average precipitation. How much of Canada's annual precipitation comes from snow? 1) 10% 2) 20% 3) 30% 4) 40% 5) 60% (Answer on inside back cover)	2005: Wind gusts to 100 km/h, heavy rain, and a rare November thunderstorm battered southern Ontario. Torontonians abandoned their umbrellas. More than 50,000 customers lost power. Around Hamilton, the wailing wind reminded nervous residents of a recent destructive tornado. In Ottawa, countless accidents led one policeman to say, "Name me an intersection, and I've got an accident there."
Remembrance Day						First Quarter

2005: Howling chinook winds, blowing over 72 km/h, through Edmonton, AB, were fierce enough to snap tree branches, but not enough to blow away previous records. After closing for the season, a golf course reopened for the weekend as temperatures reached 13.5°C.

18

1862: For at least 2 straight weeks, residents of New Westminster, BC, suffered several consecutive hours of dense mist and fog, which enveloped everything in its clammy folds and struck a damp chill. Thick fog in Victoria caused ships to wait outside at anchor.

19

1894: A boisterous storm toppled several chimneys and ripped shingles from many roofs in downtown St. John's, NL. The Newfoundland News called for some action to protect citizens. "In the interests of public safety it is about time that some of the ruins on Duckworth Street and Water Street be looked at. Bricks are useful, but when they take to flying they are objectionable."

20

1922: Nearly a third of the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company's 500 utility poles came down in Cape Breton, NS, following an intense blizzard. Power and telegraph lines across the harbour were circuited when a long distance cable fell. Of 7,000 telephones on the island, only a little over 1,000 were working 3 days later.

21

2005: Heavy rain and winds gusting to over 100 km/h cut power to some 100,000 homes in Nova Scotia. In Fredericton, NB, an intense 65-mm downpour turned to snow, making bridges and roads slick and treacherous and creating huge problems for road crews. Many roads became single lane until repairs were done. City residents reported flooded basements, washed-out ditches, and submersed roadways.

22

1909: A blinding blizzard that raged all night caused one of the worst wrecks ever on the CPR line in Saskatchewan. The accident between a stock and a freight train led to the death of 2 workers. The caboose and stock car were reduced to matchwood, and 25 steers were killed. The Moose Jaw coroner called for an immediate inquest.

23

2005: In Ontario's Niagara Peninsula, the temperature dipped to -8°C, signaling the time was right to pick grapes for ice wine. It marked the earliest ice-wine grape harvest in the region's history; the harvest typically starts in mid-to-late December. Ideal weather conditions meant grapes with optimum sugar content and fresh-tasting juice for high quality wine.

24

Full Moon ○

1958: Manitoba snow-plow operators spent the night rescuing stranded motorists, before bucking blocked roads to restore bus and truck traffic. Winnipeg bus riders reported long delays and jammed transit vehicles. More than 175 men cleared snow off streets or maintained the city's 92 pieces of equipment. Almost 75 cm of snow had fallen so far this month, almost 5 times more than last November.

25

2004: Across Moncton, NB, wind gusts exceeding 100 km/h toppled tree limbs onto power lines, causing extensive outages. In Summerside, PE, heavy winds pushed waves against wharves and berthed fishing vessels. The winds and rough seas delayed the winter lobster season, one of the world's largest, for 24 hours. More than 1,700 vessels usually head out on dumping day to drop 1,000s of lobster traps.

26

2005: The Lake Louise, AB, ski patrol rescued skiers, some children, trapped for more than 5 hours in a gondola stalled high above the resort. Like a James Bond stuntman, a patroller zipped along the cable with a pulley-type system, entered the gondola, hooked harnesses around the occupants, and lowered them to the ground. It was scary and cold and the wind swayed the car, said a 10-year-old boy.

27

1850: One of the most violent storms locals could ever remember struck the Maritimes. In Northern Nova Scotia, snow fell to a depth of 1 m in elevated terrain. The stage coach reached Truro 12 hours late. Telegraph wires fell across the region, owing to the collective stress from wet snow, heavy frost, and gale-force winds acting on ice-accreted wires.

28

1894: Citizens of Montreal, QC, debated whether to hold a winter ice carnival this year. The festivities attracted numerous visitors, but some felt that the marketing did Canada more harm than good, as it cemented the notion of it as a land of perpetual ice and snow. Said a critic of winter carnivals: Our aim should be to show Canada at its best possible advantage at every opportunity.

29

1910: The season's worst marine accident occurred near Sault Ste. Marie, ON, in a driving snowstorm. A Great Lakes tug going to assist a steamer ashore on St. Martin's reef was cut in two by the CPR steamer *Athabasca*, upbound in the blinding snow. The tug sank in 2 minutes, with the loss of 3 persons. The steamer's crew saved 6 on the tug and stood by until no hope remained for the other 3.

30

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DECEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<div>1953: In Winnipeg, MB, the calendar said December but the weather did not. It was more than 10 degrees milder than normal, with no snow. Construction was still underway, though contractors hoped for some snow to keep deep frost out of the ground. A flock of ducks was settled on the unseasonably warm Red River. A mosquito bit a man in Transcona, and coal and oil sales were down by about 15%.</div> <div>Last Quarter</div>
<div>2005: On a slick stretch of Highway 401 near Ingersoll, ON, a beer-laden tanker truck slammed into the rear of a bus carrying teenage hockey players. The crash was among 100s on area roads, after a snow squall dumped 25 cm, causing frequent whiteouts and closing several major roads. At a local park, fun seekers used plastic sleds, inner tubes, and even a canoe to slide down snowy hills.</div>	<div>1926: When the train stopped at Sioux Lookout, ON, a porter got off to examine faulty equipment. The train started before he got back on, locking the door to his Pullman car. He clung to its iron rails for 30 km, the temperature dipping to -40°C. At the next stop, he was found speechless and semi-conscious. His hands had frozen to the rails and had to be pried open, with much difficulty.</div>	<div>1926: Unusually heavy snow delayed the official count of ballots cast in the riding of North Cochrane during the Ontario provincial election. Final returns had yet to arrive from Moose Factory, the remotest part of the riding. In previous elections, officials had transported ballot boxes by airplane or canoe, but for this election, they had to carry them by dog team and on snowshoes.</div>	<div>1884: Gale-force winds levelled the tall fence that stood between the front entrance of British Columbia's Government House and the penitentiary. The wind blew the feather hat from the provincial secretary's head. According to newspaper reports, everyone on the street had hoped to see his head follow his hat.</div> <div>Chanukah Begins</div>	<div>1862: The most fearful storm the oldest inhabitant ever remembered swept along the Miramichi, NB, coast. The high tide floated away boats, fish stores, and bridges. Water levels rose more than 1 m in some stores, spoiling a great quantity of salt, which was a heavy loss to the local fishing industry. The debris from 150 wrecks and wharves covered beaches.</div>	<div>2005: Bad weather made the federal election campaign difficult for some. In Regina, SK, -30°C and strong winds halted the incumbent's door-to-door canvassing. No one wanted to open the door to take a brochure. That few lawn signs could be put in the frozen ground was a plus. Southern Ontario candidates grappled with poor driving conditions and signs buried by huge snowfalls or passing snowplows.</div>	<div>1906: A nasty storm left thousands of cattle to perish on the Prairies. That summer was the shortest growing season on record and, consequently, ranchers had little hay to tide over their herds. Hundreds of carcasses were left behind. Up to 10,000 head of cattle grazing on the banks of the Belly River in the Lethbridge, AB, area, drifted away just before and during the blizzard.</div>
<div>2005: Drivers in Halifax, NS, had to contend with greasy roads. Vehicles overturned or were stuck in ditches and fender-benders were common, when upward of 40 cm of heavy snow turned into pouring rain. High winds caused bending trees to snap power lines and disconnect others from transformers. At one point, nearly 100,000 homes lost power. Crews repaired some lines multiple times.</div>	<div>1903: A <i>Calgary Herald</i> editorial complained that the British stereotyped Canada as a frigid country. Every sketch about Canada in British school books featured snow and ice. Statements like "milk in winter is sold in blocks like soap" must be purged to avoid the "libelling of the country's climate," said the editorial. It advised English publishers to visit Canada before revising their books.</div>	<div>1927: A Winnipeg, MB, man was found dead, with a revolver in each frozen hand, in the city's Elmwood Cemetery, near the grave of his wife. The revolvers were so tightly grasped they could not be removed until his body reached the morgue. Temperatures over the past week had been -33°C. Following serious domestic trouble, officials had taken his 6 children from him, prompting his suicide.</div>	<div>1864: The weather in Québec City, QC, was clear and cold, the temperature having dipped to -15°C. Several persons were frostbitten about their hands and face. A canoe crossing from Point Levi to the city, with 3 aboard, got stuck in the ice floes on the St. Lawrence and drifted as far as the island of Orléans. It was a miracle its occupants were not frozen to death.</div>	<div>Weather Quiz</div> <div>Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, has the coldest winter among national capitals. Which has the second coldest winter?</div> <div>1) Reykjavik, Iceland 2) Moscow, Russia 3) Astana, Kazakhstan 4) Omsk, Siberia 5) Ottawa, Canada</div> <div>(Answer on inside back cover)</div>	<div>2005: A major snow-storm hit southern Ontario and Québec. In Ottawa, ON, 54 immobilized buses caused traffic chaos. Montreal, QC, got a record 41 cm of snow in 11 hours, and 1 m or higher drifts. It was the city's largest single-day December snowfall; the snowiest day was 4 March 1971, when 43.2 cm fell. Some 200 flights were affected and 400 vehicles needing turns toward roads into parking lots.</div>	<div>1920: A fierce 2-day blizzard struck The Pas, MB. Trails were repeatedly tilled with snow but were passable enough to resume the dog races as soon as the storm slowed down. Two teams had pinned their hopes on their greyhounds performing well on the barren trails, but the rigorous weather was too much for the shorthaired breed and they perished.</div>

1933: A fierce gale, with rain and snow, whipped the Pacific Coast from Oregon to northern British Columbia, cutting telephone and electrical services. In Vancouver, BC, trolley lines broke, disrupting streetcar service temporarily. A huge wave swept across the steamer *Ben Avon*, tearing a gear box and hurling a crate of potatoes upon 3 crew men, breaking their arms, hips, and ribs.

16

1859: A large load of snow slipped from the roof of a residence in Toronto, ON, striking and seriously injuring a little boy around his head. The snow also caved in a section of a roof at St. Andrew's market. The noise startled policemen in the nearby station. When part of the side of the police quarters was carried away by the roof, officers were exposed to the weather.

17

1873: An old couple near Norton, NB, whose respective ages were 73 and 76, were married. Prior to the wedding and just after an intense snowstorm, the aged bridegroom walked to Saint John and back, a distance of 60 km return, to procure his wedding suit, carrying his purchase with him. Many people thought that not so bad for a man that age.

18

2005: Zack, the dog, not only survived a car crash near Kamloops, BC, but also 27 weeks of sub-zero temperatures. The accident killed his owner, but the Rottweiler-mix escaped the burning vehicle and lay in a ditch, eating snow to survive. A man carried Zack to his home, but the dog wandered away. When his owner's daughter finally found him, Zack was badly injured, cold, and starving.

19

1862: On her passage from Québec City, QC, to Ste-Anne-des-Monts, the schooner *Belinda* became lost in a bad storm. She had a full cargo and several passengers, 7 of whom unfortunately perished, including a family consisting of a mother, 3 daughters, and a little boy. The father was an inmate of the lunatic asylum at Beauport.

20

2004: Although winter was well underway, some resident bears around Whistler, BC, still wandered the valley floors, while savvy teenage bears raided bird feeders and human garbage for food. Most bears were too thin to hibernate because the summer's berry crop had ripened too early. As well, about 1-degree-warmer temperatures than a decade ago caused bears to den later in the year.

21

2005: A rare winter lightning strike in Victoria, BC, left about 1,800 customers in Saanich without power and more than 12 intersections without operating traffic lights. Lightning occurs in Victoria about 3 times a year. Earlier, high winds caught a Cessna 185 float plane's wing while landing near Galiano Island. The plane flipped, but luckily the 2 men on board exited without serious injury.

22

Winter Solstice 01:08 EST

1930: After 6 days on stormy seas, the power-less *Dorion* was blown in a 300-km circle, ending only 30 km from her starting point, near Halifax, NS.

23

Full Moon ○

2005: Instead of -30°C, temperatures in Yellowknife, NT, hovered in single-digit, negative cold. Territorial diamond mines worried about the weeks-long delay in construction of ice-roads, the route for transport trucks.

30

1850: A little boy in a crowd observing a shooting match at the racecourse in Québec City stayed still after all the bystanders had moved away. Someone approached him and found that he had frozen to death.

24

2004: In Manitoba, a 3-day storm dumped 33 cm of snow on the Winnipeg Winter Club's Bubble, an indoor-soccer dome. It was enough to collapse its roof.

31

Last Quarter ●

2005: In Calgary, AB, it was more like Christmas in Hawaii, with a daytime high of 14.7°C and plenty of bright sunshine, and just shy of breaking a 20-year-old record. Residents strolled without jackets and ran without shirts. Firefighters had to warn people not to glide on dangerously thin ice.

25

Christmas Day

2005: A wet and wild Boxing Day storm, with heavy snow, freezing rain, and strong winds, left 1,000s of New Brunswick shoppers without power. In the north, St. Leonard got 70 cm of snow and Bathurst and Edmundston more than 60 cm. At the Moncton airport, 400 travellers were stranded. Boxing Day shoppers said that having to trudge through waist-deep snow did not deter them from bargain hunting.

26

Boxing Day

2004: The SE Asian Boxing Day tsunami was the first one since 1883 to affect the entire world. The wave travelled from the originating site, around Cape Horn in Africa, and up the Atlantic Ocean at an incredible 740 km/h. Halifax, NS, had the most dramatic water-level increase along the eastern seaboard. The tsunami first pushed the sea down at least 20 cm and then lifted it up to 40+ cm.

27

1905: An ominous, overcast sky, freezing temperatures, howling 100 km/hr winds, and 9-m waves battered Vancouver Island's west coast. The *Pass of Melfort* was driven onto the rocks and then sank in 70 m of water. Her 36-man crew perished, only 2 bodies ever found. The tragedy caused the Amphitrite Point lighthouse to be built the next year. It lasted just 8 years, until a storm swept it away.

28

1920: Railway workers in Antigonish County, NS, wrestled with huge snowdrifts that blocked the CNR rail line to Sydney for 3 days. Gangs were unable to locate the stalled trains to dig them out. The storm also affected the collieries on Cape Breton Island, preventing miners from getting to work, in some cases, and holding up surface operations until the colliery yards could be cleared of snow.

29

WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

January: 1) 200 million

February: 4) snowstorm

March: 1) May

April: 5) 61%

May: 2) Alberta

June: 5) over 30°C

July: 3) 40%

August: 1) once every 3 seconds

September: 2) 9 days

October: 2) Ontario

November: 4) 40%

December: 3) Astana, Kazakhstan