

# DECEMBER

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Children enjoy the snow sculptures in Ottawa, ON / Garry Black / Masterfile

# JANUARY 2009

# FEBRUARY

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				<p>2008: Thousands of Montrealers (QC) got a free vacation when 14.8 cm of snow fell on the city. In a "Let It Snow" promotion, a trip booked by December 7 would be free if over 12 cm fell on New Year's Day in the area. No free holidays in Calgary, AB, Toronto, ON, and Halifax, NS; less than 10 cm fell. The travel company had a \$100 million insurance policy, the largest 1-day weather guarantee ever.</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>In which province do Canadians own the most snow blowers?</p> <p>1) Newfoundland-Labrador 2) New Brunswick 3) Manitoba 4) Quebec 5) Ontario</p> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>1960: Army personnel smashed icy flood waters around Rivière des Prairies, QC, evacuated some families, and brought fuel and food to those who stayed. To break the ice jam, Hydro Quebec crews ventured onto the ice to drop two-stick charges and then travelled farther out by helicopter to plant bigger charges. Channels were eventually freed and water started running off again.</p>
<p>1880: Near London, ON, heavy rain thawed the snowpack, weakened the ice (up to 0.5 m thick), and raised water levels 1 m inside an hour. The sound of ice breaking and the roar of rushing water were deafening. Trees were uprooted and logs, planks, posts, rails, and beer casks floated away. When a large timber raft struck the centre pier of an old shaky bridge, those standing on it scampered off.</p> <p>Perihelion 10:00 EST First Quarter</p>	<p>1913: The Norwegian steamer <i>Ganda</i>, out of Vancouver, BC, floundered in a major Pacific storm. The ship's cook was washed from its deck. As the ship continued to flounder, another wave lifted him from the sea and tossed him back on deck.</p>	<p>2007: Ontario had soft ground, ice-free lakes and rivers, no snow, and leaves on trees. For the 1st time, a January thaw caused the Blue Mountain ski resorts in Collingwood to lay off 1,300 staff for over 3 weeks. Mice, bats, and rats were breeding, not sleeping, and the Toronto Zoo's African animals enjoyed the outdoors. Construction workers put in long hours in unseasonably mild, dry conditions.</p>	<p>1944: An impoverished 19 year old working at a lumber camp near Kapuskasing, ON, attempted to walk to Toronto at -25°C to attend to his sick grandmother. On the 2nd night, he staggered into a grocery store 50 km from his starting point, his legs and feet badly frozen. He was transferred to Hearst, where doctors worked to save his legs. In the meantime, his grandmother's health improved.</p>	<p>2008: Residents of Vallée-Jonction, QC, southeast of Quebec City, were ordered to leave their homes after melting snow and rain caused a nearby river to overflow its banks—a rarity for January. Teenagers were spotted plowing along flooded roads on all-terrain vehicles. A coast-guard hovercraft was called in to break up ice on the Châteauguay River near Montreal.</p>	<p>2008: Winds across southern Ontario downed tree limbs and power lines, tore shingles and siding off buildings, and made walking difficult; 140,000 homes and businesses lost power. In Smith Falls, police dealt with 3 flying trampolines—1 of them sliced power lines. At the Buttonville Airport, 2 light planes were flipped over and a section of downtown Toronto was closed for fear of falling signs.</p>	<p>1996: Military and coast-guard personnel rescued an American balloonist over the Bay of Fundy (NB) after a blizzard ravaging the U.S. eastern seaboard blew his hot-air balloon off course. Although he ultimately landed safely in a New Brunswick hayfield, the military estimated it cost \$54,000 to send out the search-and-rescue team and aircraft.</p> <p>Full Moon</p>
<p>2008: A Bathurst, NB, high school boys' basketball team was 5 minutes from home when their van slammed into a tractor-trailer, killing 7 players and 1 adult. Ice pellets, freezing rain, and snow covered the highway, visibility was less than 2.5 km, and the temperature was -2.0°C. The rear and most of the passenger side of the 15-seat van were torn off, ejecting benches and victims into the snow.</p>	<p>1903: A rare chinook, packing some of the strongest winds ever, ripped through parts of Yukon. Telegraph service was knocked out, ending an unusually lengthy period (3 days) of uninterrupted communications between Dawson and the outside world. The warm, dry blast melted up to 0.5 m of snow in a flash. Repairs to telegraph lines proceeded very slowly.</p>	<p>1997: Ice on Lake St. Clair (ON) heaved and crushed several docks, some built with steel posts set 3 m into the lake floor. The noise made by the breaking ice spooked many residents. One said it sounded louder than thunder; another thought it was an earthquake because the house shook.</p>	<p>1957: Seven men died when a pilot boat sank in the Bay of Fundy (NB), close to Partridge Island. Thick, white mist or "frost vapour" enveloped the boat in -30°C temperatures, blinding the crew to the approaching 8,500-tonne freighter Fort Avalon. The freighter sliced it in two and the icy waters claimed the men before rescue could begin. The boat was found at the bottom of the bay 2 years later.</p>	<p>1947: Perhaps the worst winter storm in Canadian railway history buried trains in the West in monstrous snowdrifts for up to 2 weeks. Near Weyburn, SK, men dug 6 m to reach the rails and only the top of telegraph poles were visible. A Hodgeville farmer fed and watered his chickens through a chimney on the coop and a Moose Jaw farmer chopped a hole in his barn roof to get in to milk his cows.</p>	<p>1863: Two young boys were buried by an avalanche of snow while sliding on the crest of a large hill at the rear of the Grand Trunk Railway station in Quebec City, QC. Hours later, rescuers started digging against the wall of the building. The deep snow was so densely packed that the boys must have suffocated immediately.</p>	<p>1907: A cold, stormy period on Canada's Pacific coast left citizens angry with Mother Nature for daily shipwrecks, flooding, stranded tugboats, trees falling on houses, stalled trains, downed telegraph wires, and the effects of extreme cold (-16.7°C). On this day, the liquid in a Vancouver, BC, soda-pop factory's machinery froze and pipes burst, while filled bottles exploded; damage was \$1,500.</p>

**1901:** In Montreal, QC, the poor suffered intensely when temperatures dipped to -25.6°C and winds blew at 38 km/h. Little fuel (nor the wherewithal to purchase it), clothing of thin material, and a drafty house all contributed to their misery and drove many into refuge houses and police stations throughout the city. One shelter took care of 396 people.

18

**1907:** Without any warning, a few hours after the close of a hockey match, the roof of the skating rink at Lake Megantic, QC, collapsed onto the ice. The rink's north wall fell outward against the building next door and its west end fell inward. The only supposed cause was the weight of snow saturated with the rain and the force of the wind—all too much pressure for the roof to bear.

19

**2008:** Over 100 vehicles littered Highway 400 north of Toronto, ON, after blinding whiteouts caused numerous chain-reaction accidents. Drivers were in sunshine one moment and swirling snow squalls the next, able to see just 2 or 3 car lengths ahead. Sirens filled the air and buses hauled out the stranded. Dozens were injured, but no one died, partly because poor visibility had slowed drivers.

20

**1906:** In the midst of a wild 2-day winter storm raging from Swift Current, SK, to Kenora, ON, a farm labourer near Portage la Prairie, MB, started out for home. He never reached his destination. The next morning his team was discovered near the city, one of the horses so badly cut that it was presumed they had wandered all night against barbed wire fencing.

21

**2008:** A group of convicted teenage car thieves from Winnipeg, MB, were walking to a court-ordered counselling program in bone-chilling -40°C temperatures. So what did they do? They stole a car to get there. A detective in the city's car-theft unit said 3 of the 4 teens were "level four" offenders—the highest designation for chronic car thieves.

22

**1867:** Across Prince Edward Island, snowbanks were so tall that shopkeepers didn't open their doors and the few women who ventured out got stuck in the snow and needed help. Mail was interrupted for a week. Dogs resembled moving snowballs—when a passerby stirred something dark sticking out of the snow with his shillelagh, it growled. Some citizens believed a tunnel to the mainland was needed.

23

**2008:** A 7-day record-breaking blizzard in the Kivalliq region (NU) included zero visibility and -50 windchills. Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and Baker Lake stores had no bread, milk, fresh produce, eggs, frozen food, or cigarettes. Planes were grounded, mail service was halted, and schools and banks closed. A midwife handled one birth. Snowmobilers rode near the lines on the top of power poles.

24

**1952:** The old expression "It was so cold outside that even birds were walking" was true on this occasion. A young starling (named Jake) walked into Ottawa's (ON) main police station, where he found a warm refuge in a corner or on a coil of rope under the Sergeant Major's desk. Starlings usually go south for the winter, but Jake was evidently too young to travel. He was fed bread crumbs and milk.

25

**1978:** Windsor-Chatham (ON) was at the centre of a huge blizzard-hurricane. The barometric pressure was (and remains) the lowest ever recorded in Ontario. Copious rain turned to snow as the temperature fell. Schools and businesses closed, 100s of drivers caught in whiteouts were rescued by local militia, who also used 4-wheel-drive vehicles to get doctors and nurses to hospitals, and 4 people died.

26

**1938:** Thousands watched as workers tried to bolster the framework of the 39-year-old Falls View International Bridge at Niagara Falls, ON, to withstand the pressure of a huge ice mass. The bridge was as much as 18 cm off its foundations, its girders twisted badly, and spectators said it was leaning slightly downstream. The ice also threatened 2 Maid of the Mist sightseeing vessels in dry dock.

27

**2008:** A -40°C cold snap filled emergency shelters in Yellowknife, NT. In Yukon, ice fog enveloped entire areas and mail delivery was halted. Store clerks took off their gloves to use cash registers and hikers and dog walkers were absent from trails. Tow trucks rescued countless frozen vehicles and repair shops were backlogged. The annual Polar Games for Grade 5 and 6 students were cancelled.

28

**2008:** The bodies of two sisters, one 3 and the other 1, were discovered yesterday in the Yellow Quill First Nation community (SK). Police searched for them after their father, found hypothermic and frostbitten, asked about them 8 hours later. It was -35°C with a -50 windchill when he set out with the girls, who were dressed in diapers and T-shirts. The father faces charges of criminal negligence causing death.

29

**2008:** During a deep freeze in Alberta, power usage in Red Deer hit an all-time high. In the north, pipes froze, especially under mobile homes, and engineers suspended production at the Syncrude oilsands facility due to instrument freeze-up. In Edmonton, the NHL Oilers gave free jump-starts to any fan whose vehicle froze in the arena parking lot. The Calgary Zoo kept its Siberian tigers inside.

30

**2008:** An ice storm snapped power poles like twigs, leaving 22,000 Prince Edward Islanders without power. Troops stood by at CFB Gagetown (NB). At one point, 95% of hydro customers were without power and a third had no power for several days; 10 emergency shelters were set up. A helicopter borrowed from New Brunswick was grounded for 2 days. Library patrons were not charged overdue fees, however.

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# FEBRUARY 2009

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## Sunday

## Monday


## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

<p><b>2008:</b> In a rare move, the local school board in Yellowknife, NT, advised parents and caregivers that schools had been closed to ensure the safety of students and staff in response to extreme cold temperatures of around -50°C.</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2008:</b> Canada's weather-prognosticating rodents—Warton Willie (ON), Shubenacadie Sam (NS), and Balzac Billy (AB) (albeit stuffed)—all failed to see their shadow. Folklore says that if a groundhog sees his shadow on Groundhog Day, it heralds 6 more weeks of winter; if he doesn't, it means early spring. Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil was the lone dissenter: score 1 for Phil.</p> <p>Groundhog Day First Quarter </p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>1916:</b> Old-timers in Victoria, BC, called it the worst blizzard in 55 years—116 cm of snow in 5 days. Streetcars couldn't move and conductors and motormen spent the night in their trams. A few sleighs got in from outlying districts, but the great majority of people with urgent business in the city had to walk in. Stores failed to open. Police officers went about their beat on snowshoes.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>1924:</b> Blizzards across Newfoundland contributed to the sad death of a Methodist minister from Fogo. Overtaken by weather as he was returning from Seldom Comeby, 15 km away, instead of turning back to shelter, he forged ahead against the increasingly violent gale. Rescuers found his body about 2 km from his home. The blizzards also buried railway tracks, blocking trains across the province.</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Winnipeggers (MB) awoke to the coldest day in 11 years: -41.7°C. It felt like -49° and exposed flesh would freeze in under 2 minutes. School buses were cancelled, tires went flat, and car batteries died. A tire loses 1 pound per square inch of air pressure for each 5° temperature drop; below -18°C, a battery loses 50% of its starting power. Festival du Voyageur celebrations went ahead.</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>1920:</b> A snow- and rainstorm swept Halifax, NS, and other parts of the Maritimes. Rain roared down hills and enlarged miniature lakes. Rising waters flooded cellars, extinguished furnaces, and interrupted tram service. Many a tired worker trod home on the deplorable streets through slush that rose above the ankle, to spend the night drying footwear. The heavy rain solved a water shortage.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>2008:</b> Just after 9:00 AM, a Calgary, AB, woman was sitting on her bed, chatting on her phone, when a melon-size chunk of blue-tinted ice crashed through the roof, narrowly missing her. The shards of ice hitting the back of her neck and head made her think she had been shot, but Transport Canada said the ice likely fell from a passing airplane. It left a 45-cm hole in the roof of her house.</p> <p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>2008:</b> After Toronto, ON, got over 50 cm of snow in 6 days, 1000s complained about snowed-in side streets. The \$67-million snow budget had been used up clearing the 140 cm that had already fallen (more than the past 2 winters combined). The last time so much snow fell in 1 week (1999), then Mayor Lastman asked the Canadian Forces to dig out the city. This year, the army was in Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>1952:</b> After 20 cm of snow fell over a few days in Hamilton, ON, an inter-urban bus skidded on ice and careened down an almost vertical embankment into a 30-m-deep ravine. The accident injured 10 passengers, 2 severely, and at least 8 others, but no one was killed. The embankment was so steep that rescuers formed a human chain to pass the injured up to the highway, where 6 ambulances waited.</p> <p>Full Moon </p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>2008:</b> A series of storms dumped up to 2 m of snow in some areas of British Columbia's Interior. Avalanche warnings were issued and the Coquihalla Highway from Hope to Merritt was closed indefinitely; trucks had to take long (expensive) alternative routes. Poor visibility kept helicopter crews from triggering avalanches. Such prolonged closures due to avalanches had not been dealt with before.</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>1912:</b> Toronto's (ON) harbour was frozen solid. People skated on the 1-m-thick near-shore ice from Toronto to Hamilton and bet if it was safe to go from Toronto to Rochester, NY. Some 50 skaters ventured 5 km out into the lake before turning back. It was the century's coldest January-March and the 2nd-coldest recorded. Trees exploding from the cold or lake ice grinding were reported as gunfire.</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>1911:</b> A fierce gale near Victoria, BC, with wind gusts exceeding 100 km/h, drove huge waves against the shore of Ross Bay, washing out gravesites and carrying coffins out to sea. The cemetery caretaker frantically dug up exposed coffins and moved them to a secure location. Among the coffins were the remains of smallpox victims. No one was willing to help him dig up the coffins.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>2008:</b> A near-record snowfall across eastern North America led to a dwindling supply of salt and forced rationing. Some highway departments restricted its use to main roads and severe cases of ice in front of schools. Others used more sand in order to save their salt. Compared to last winter, many jurisdictions were using double the amount of salt.</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> A 9-cm/h snowfall inundated Quebec's Eastern Townships. Sherbrooke got 60 cm in 24 hours (the record was 41.6 cm in 1985) and streets and bridges became icy parking lots filled with cars, school and city buses, and snowplows. A 5-minute drive took 5 hours. Cars that ran out of gas were abandoned and kids slept at school. A doctor came by snowmobile to help a woman who gave birth in her car.</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>2008:</b> A record snowfall led a Shawinigan, QC, man to put his snow pile up for sale. He promised to deliver it anywhere in the province at any time—even for a snow party in July. Through a simple local newspaper ad, he sold 3 truckloads of snow. The entrepreneur always covered the snow in his backyard with wood shavings to ensure it stayed until August.</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>1910:</b> Severe cold caused no end of complications for the railways. The majority of trains arriving in Montreal, QC, were from 1 to 6 hours late. At the main terminal, it was so cold (-19°C) that a big locomotive froze to the track when water meant for the boiler spilled over the wheels and track and quickly froze into a solid mass. Another locomotive was used to butt into the iced-up one.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>2008:</b> The weather observer at Chetwynd, BC, heard a commotion in her goat shed while she was taking her 4:00 PM observation. As she steadied the goat, she was attacked by a wolf, which clomped on her arm and pulled hard. She got away and phoned a neighbour, who shot the intruder. She missed that observation but was back at it the next day. Those northern weather observers are tough!</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>2008:</b> In Edmonton, AB, 40 hockey players broke the world record for longest continuous hockey play; each averaged about 12 hours of ice time a day over 240 hours. The first few days were the hardest, with temperatures below -40°C. The weather ranged from bitter to balmy in their frosty marathon to raise money for cancer research. The final score was 2,223 for Team Hope and 2,250 for Team Cure.</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> A wintry blast hit the St. John's (NL) area, creating havoc for drivers, pedestrians, and air travellers. Over 100-km/h wind gusts pushed 20 to 40 cm of snow into monstrous drifts. Cabs and buses were taken off the streets. Many homeowners waded through hip- to chest-high snow to get to the curb; those who couldn't open their snowed-in front door went out windows or patio doors.</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>1901:</b> A half-rain, half-snow downpour turned Victoria, BC, streets into a sloppy slush. Under ordinary circumstances, streets would have been deserted. On this day, however, 100s of eager citizens gathered at the Canadian Pacific wharf to hail the arrival of the South African volunteers.</p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>1912:</b> A blizzard in Ontario tied up train service, interrupted telegraph service between North Bay and Toronto, halted the mail, and blocked all roads to the mines. In Halleybury, no one could recall a more powerful storm. Some 40 km from North Bay, a snowplow picked up a stranded older man. His hands and feet were badly frozen and he had chewed off one of his forefingers.</p> <p><b>21</b></p>

**2008:** People in Rankin Inlet, NU, endured -30°C for 4 days with minimal power, when 2 generators shut down and rotating blackouts were imposed. Furnaces, appliances, and computers could be used sparingly. With no power for block heaters, vehicles were left running all night. About 10% (70) of Rankin's homes froze solid. The darkened town had an unequalled view of the lunar eclipse, however.

**22**

**1982:** The western half of PE was buried once more this winter, after 11 days of snow. It turned cold (-19°C) and winds created drifts that would support vehicles but were horrific for snowplows. With roads blocked for over a week, dairy farmers stored milk in large plastic bags, including washed-out fertilizer bags. Buses lost mirrors negotiating narrow, twisting openings. School kids had a 2-week break.

**23**

### **Weather Quiz**

In the history of the Winter Olympics, how many ski events have been cancelled due to weather?

- 1) none
- 2) 2
- 3) 10
- 4) too many to count
- 5) 1 (too much snow)

(Answer on inside back cover)

**New Moon**

**24**

**2008:** The ice was back in parts of the North. The winter of 2007–08 was the 2nd coldest in 10 years, which enabled greater-than-normal sea ice to form in the Davis Strait. According to the Canadian Ice Service, the Arctic winter was so severe that the ice not only recovered but was also 10 to 20 cm thicker in many places than the same time last year.

**25**

**Ash Wednesday**

**1916:** Snow and ice pellets driven by high winds made it uncomfortable around Ste. Agathe, QC. Frozen rain on trees and wires damaged the village and cut electricity and telephone service. One person said the poplars looked like flag poles—the heavy ice stripped them of branches and limbs, leaving stark trunks. A patriotic rally at Verdun Town Hall was poorly attended due to the storm.

**26**

**1876:** A north/northeast gale provided a stunning view of Niagara Falls (ON). Huge rocks below the American Falls, often submerged, were dry and exposed; between Goat Island and Prospect Park, the river, usually flowing at over 30 km/h, was still; the stream just above Table Rock was a dry, solid bed of rock; and Horseshoe Falls had lost 2/3rds of its water and looked like an ordinary millpond.

**27**

**1952:** During a blizzard near Sydney, NS, 18 U.S. airmen from Westover Field, MA, leapt to safety with only 3 minutes of fuel in their C-47. The pilot had tried to land 20 times. It was the 1st jump for 17 of them but no one was badly hurt. They feared falling into the Atlantic or being whipped by the gale-force winds into high-tension wires and trees but landed in deep snow in a suburban area.

**28**

## FEBRUARY

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The tip of the iceberg, and below, near Newfoundland / Dale Wilson / Masterfile

## APRIL

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# MARCH 2009

## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

**2007:** Heavy snow, freezing rain, and gusting winds paralyzed southern Ontario. In Toronto, wind knocked people off their feet, Woodbine Racetrack cancelled races, the University shut its doors, and Pizza Pizza took longer to deliver, if at all. Commuters spent hours trying to get home—there was a crash a minute on the highways. Near Listowel, 2 children died and their mother clung to life.

1

**2007:** A man taking a long walk with his dogs near Iqaluit, NU, slipped and fell 90 m, puncturing a lung and breaking 7 ribs, his collarbone, a shoulder, and a wrist. Only his dogs and the ravens circling overhead witnessed what he feared were his final hours; 7 hours later, his wife called police and he was rescued. It was unusually mild (-21°C), but he also suffered hypothermia and frostbite.

2

**2008:** A woman in Laval, QC, frustrated by the amount of snow on her street, went to Plattsburgh, NY, and bought a \$4,000 blade to bolt on the front of her SUV to use as a snowplow. City crews had repeatedly ignored her street and even ambulances couldn't get through the drifts. The almost 300 cm the city had received since October was close to an all-time snowfall record for 1 winter.

3

**1971:** A massive snowfall in Montreal, QC, left 2-storey drifts and 17 people dead from heart attacks, asphyxiation, or traffic accidents. Stranded workers and partiers crowded hotels, bars, and restaurants and police on snowmobiles kept order. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau flew to Vancouver, BC, where, to the surprise of everyone but the 12 witnesses, he married Margaret Sinclair.

4

First Quarter ☾

**1845:** A man who left Newcastle, NB, for home got caught in a fierce snowstorm. After his horse tripped in a hole, the man unharnessed the animal and covered it with a rug and then took shelter among some bushes near Shillelagh Cove. It was there he was found frozen to death. The horse had stayed where his master had left him and it survived.

5

**2007:** Victorians (BC) counted 3.4 billion blooms in their gardens, parks, and golf courses in this year's Victoria Flower Count or, as one writer put it, "The 32nd Annual Festival of Bite Me, Toronto." This was significantly fewer than the 5.4 billion in 2006 and the record 8.5 billion in 2002; waning enthusiasm for the flower count, not weather, was likely the reason for the low tally.

6

**Weather Quiz**  
A century or so ago, which word did the federal government ban from brochures and publications describing Canada?

7

- 1) Communist
- 2) hockey
- 3) beaver
- 4) cold
- 5) snow

(Answer on inside back cover)

**2008:** In southern Ontario, a record snowstorm disrupted 300 international flights (as over 100,000 tried to escape for March Break) and led to 600 highway crashes. The Toronto Zoo closed early and most of its animals, especially the African ones, were kept inside. The Niagara Peninsula and Ottawa Valley got 50 cm of snow, but Canadian Idol hopefuls braved the Ottawa snow for a spot on the show.

8

**2008:** A massive winter storm left countless Quebec residents without power. About 40% of flights were cancelled at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport. Some passengers waited hours to deplane; many had to sleep on airport floors or in stairwells. Near Quebec City, snowmobiles and ATVs were used to rescue 60 motorists, including a group of Mexican tourists.

9

**1963:** A rare funnel cloud during a snowfall struck a farmhouse outside of Barrhead, AB. The mini-tornado took the roof off the house and sent the porch roof onto a nearby fence post. It also twisted off the tops of some 12-cm-round trees and blew them into an adjacent field.

10

**2008:** Record snowfall in Quebec was triggering snow rage. In Quebec City, a man pointed a cocked 12-gauge shotgun at a snowplow operator blowing snow onto his property, while a Montreal resident flashed a (toy) gun while arguing over a lone parking spot on a snow-clogged street. Quebec City police had received more than 12 calls this winter over snow-blowing disputes between neighbours.

11

**1899:** The new 8,200-tonne steamer Castilian, one of the world's largest steamers, came aground about 20 km from Yarmouth, NS, in dense fog. Those on board were unaware of the accident until the fog lifted and they saw the shore. Water filled the forward compartment, drowning 200 sheep. Just 10 days later, the Castilian broke apart during a gale.

12

**2008:** Snow, fierce winds, and freezing rain shut down ferry service and made roads impassable in central Newfoundland. Hospital staff worked 2 straight shifts when the next shift couldn't get in. Downtown St. John's was quiet, except for the din of snowblowers and snowplows. On Fogo Island, an avalanche buried several homes and damaged a bridge, the worst snow the mayor had seen in a long time.

13

**1920:** A major blizzard crippled railway traffic and telegraph and telephone services in the West. Trains ran up to 15 hours behind schedule or were cancelled. Telegraph poles were carried away in Saskatchewan, but the worst damage occurred between Elie and Willow Range, MB, where only 3 poles were left standing in a 12-km stretch. More than 1 metre of wet snow collected in places.

14

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Full Moon ☾

**1927:** Not a wheel turned and business was left prostrate after Saskatoon's (SK) worst winter storm in 25 years. Residents could not make their way through the 4-m-high drifts that lined city streets and rural roads. Stalled streetcars blocked main lines and abandoned automobiles were buried in snow. Early morning workers trudged through snow that came up to their ears.

15

**2008:** In Quebec, a Saint-Gerard-des-Laurentides home's roof collapsed, killing the owner, the day he planned to clear snow off it; his wife and 2 sons fled just before it fell. After creaking noises were heard, 65 nursing-home residents in Saint-Eustache were relocated (over 90 cm of snow was on the roof) and 2 rinks in Laval were closed. In Montreal, crews worked to clear 167 school roofs.

16

**1868:** In Toronto, ON, a tornado blew off roofs (carrying one 200 m), felled stout fences, and sent masses of timber into the lake. As a worker hid under it, a train in a railway repair shop rolled on its side; falling bricks injured 2 others. St. Lawrence Hall's cupola and flagpole were toppled, trees were destroyed, and a railcar was blown at great speed along the track and then lifted off it.

17

**2008:** Freezing rain and 40 cm of snow halted snowplows and closed schools, government offices, courts, and banks in Newfoundland. All flights to and from St. John's International Airport were disrupted and Metrobus shut down. Locals say that after St. Patrick and his friends partied on the 17th, the dust that angry Sheila swept up the next day turned into a snowstorm called "Sheila's Brush."

18

**1833:** New Brunswickers had never witnessed such intense cold or depth of snow at the beginning of March. Saint Andrew's Harbour was frozen over and persons crossed frequently. A dreadful slaughter of red deer took place. Because the animals were slowed by the deep snow, their pursuers overtook them with ease on snowshoes and cut their throats; 1 person brought 13 carcasses to town.

19

**2007:** A Manitoba woman's frozen body was found beside her car 8 weeks after she disappeared. She likely swerved into a ditch; the windchill was -30. Police searched for but failed to find her. Passing snowplows had pushed snow over her car and strong winds erased its tracks. Her body and car only became visible today because much of the snow had melted and police resumed their search.

20

**1913:** A violent Good Friday windstorm struck Ontario in the early afternoon, forcing holiday crowds to take shelter. In North Bay, the opera house had to cancel both holiday performances. In Sudbury, the wind sent a 6-m board from the new skating rink 300 m, where it went through a church window and collided with a piano. It also unroofed 2 freight cars and razed a reinforced-concrete roundhouse.

21

**1968:** How dry can it get? Calgary, AB, had the lowest relative humidity ever recorded in Canada: 6%. The air temperature was 18°C and the dew point -20°C. Calgary's normal afternoon relative humidity in March is 59%.

22

**2008:** In near-perfect weather, a Canadian Forces rescue helicopter plucked an injured British adventurer off the Arctic ice, ending her attempt to be the 1st woman to ski solo to the North Pole. About 200 km north of Alert, NU, she tumbled off an ice ridge into a crevasse and injured herself. Bad weather south of Alert could have kept civilian rescuers from getting to her for 4 days.

23

World Meteorology Day

**1858:** Lightning tore a 61-m gap in the Reversing Falls Bridge in Saint John, NB, but did not set it on fire. Shortly after, a stagecoach from Fredericton, filled with passengers, started across it. Miraculously, the horses stopped part way and a lightning flash allowed the driver and passengers to see the huge gap, down 21 m into the falls. [Adapted from Charles Perry, *Moncton Times-Transcript*]

24

**1954:** Thick fog enclosed the U.S. military base in St. Anthony, NL. As locals watched in horror, a 16,000-kg SA-16 Albatross amphibious plane emerged from the fog, hooked a boulder, tore through a house, dug into the road's shoulder, and slammed into a shed. Aviation fuel filled the air and soaked the ground, but the aircraft did not explode and the 10 people on board survived.

25

**2008:** Extremely dry conditions in Calgary, AB (only 2.2 mm of precipitation in March), led officials to issue a fire ban months earlier than normal. A passing train ignited 10 grassfires in and around the city, which spread along the tracks. Strong chinook winds continued to dry out the ground.

26

New Moon

**1907:** A severe electrical storm passed over Lemesurier, QC, in the evening. Lightning struck a barn, burning everything inside including 9 head of cattle, a fine 2-year-old colt, and 6 sheep. It was quite a loss to the owner as there was no insurance.

27

**2008:** Some 16 boats carried 100 hunters from Îles de la Madeleine (QC) toward a large seal herd in the Cabot Strait between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; 3 boats struggled in the heavy ice and 2 icebreakers were sent to assist them. Harp seals have good pupping seasons when ice is heavy, unlike 2007, when sparse, thin ice caused high mortality. The East Coast has over 5 million harp seals.

28

**1997:** About 300 pregnant mink died from cold, wet weather near Blenheim, ON, after being set free by 5 animal-rights activists. They released about 1,500 mink, but most of the animals stayed around the fur farm, about 85 km east of Windsor. The 5 people were charged with break and enter, mischief, and possession of stolen property.

29

**1967:** The worst storm of the winter blocked highways and interrupted telephone and power services in several communities in northwestern Manitoba. The highways department advised against travelling in the area. Several school divisions closed schools, and elections for school trustees in the Duck Mountain and Valley divisions were postponed for 5 days.

30

**2008:** The heaviest snowfall in 38 years buried buds and other undergrowth that Montreal (QC) Island's deer herd normally feed on. The energy spent searching for food in deep snow can outstrip the energy derived from eating it, and the starving animals started eating tree bark. Deer, like humans, can also slip on ice and break limbs; a deer that breaks a leg is vulnerable to coyotes.

31

MARCH						
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# APRIL 2009

MAY						
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1967: In nasty weather, a bush pilot landed his aircraft on a frozen lake 360 km from Yellowknife, NT. He huddled inside the plane for 58 days at below -50°C temperatures, only leaving it to stamp out SOS in the snow. He would lose 3 toes on his right foot and 2 on his left to amputation. News of his rescue was considered a sick April Fool's joke, as he had been given up for dead after 15 days.</p>	<p>1881: The captain of a Spanish baroque from Liverpool, UK, berthed in the Victoria, BC, harbour, paraded his tame sea lion. For 13 years, the docile walrus had accompanied him on all his voyages. The 186-kg brute slept in the sun on deck. During strong winds, he resorted to a kennel, but when the weather was calm, he leapt overboard and sported about the ship for hours, catching and eating fish.</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p>2007: The Fraser River (BC) basin snowpack was 130 to 165% of normal, just under that of 1972 when major flooding occurred. Officials began distributing some 5 million sandbags to various "hot spots" and soldiers were ordered into the Lower Mainland in anticipation of rising waters. Unseasonably cool, wet weather not only delayed the melt but continued the record buildup of snow.</p>	<p>1979: A weather observer in Fort Smith, NT, narrowly escaped injury when the upper-air balloon he was filling with highly volatile hydrogen gas exploded. The building at the upper-air station just outside of town was totally destroyed; damage was estimated at \$100,000. No one knew how the gas ignited, why the technician was unharmed, and why no fire resulted.</p>
<p>2004: A family that fled South Africa due to a sun allergy was granted a 2-year temporary resident permit for Prince Rupert, BC, where the climate relieved their extreme form of porphyria. In South Africa, the children studied at home by day and only went out after sunset. Prince Rupert has the most rain, the least sun, the fewest sunny days, and the cloudiest skies year-round in Canada.</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>2007: Slushy frazil ice from Lake Winnipeg created one of the longest ice jams in Manitoba's history and one of the biggest ever seen on the Red River. Selkirk had major flooding, with water rising to homes' floorboards and over car hoods. At the Marine Museum, the water pushed 4 dry-docked ships off their foundations, and sewage poured into the exhibits; museum staff saved what they could.</p>	<p>1898: Winds blew down a trestle bridge on the St. Mary's River near Crownsnest, AB. Strong southwesterlies shook the bridge as 14 workers put the final touches on the 20-m-high span; then, without warning, an extra-strong gust struck it end on and blew it over. Some of the men jumped 4 m to safety on the banks of the coulee, but others fell with the bridge, 16 m or more. Four men died.</p>	<p>2007: A snowstorm blanketed the Maritimes in what was becoming the winter's snowiest month. In Moncton, NB, snowplows and tractors were taken out of storage to clear the streets. At Halifax (NS) International Airport, 100s of travellers were stranded. In Cape Breton, 30+ cm of snow whipped into blizzards by gusty 90 km/h winds cancelled countless Easter Sunday church services and dinners.</p>	<p>2007: Eight Canadian Forces' Arctic Sovereignty patrol members ended their mission between Eureka and Alert, NU, a route perhaps never taken before. They had slogged 9 days by snowmobile at -50°C, with winds over 100 km/h; erecting a tent took up to 2 hrs and refuelling a snowmobile was an ordeal. Three teams travelled a combined 5,589 km over 17 days to assert Canadian sovereignty in the North.</p> <p>Passover Full Moon ☾</p>	<p>1946: The head guy at the Ottawa Weather Office was scheduled to talk in Saint John, NB, on "New Brunswick Weather," but cancelled his lecture when snow blocked highways into the city. On the 9th, 25 cm of snow fell in Saint John, and a few more fell on the 10th; temperatures varied between 5.6 and -2.8°C.</p>	<p>1921: Pictou County, NS, was gripped by one of its worst ever freezing-rain storms. A torrent of rain became freezing rain by evening, encasing the region in a heavy coating of ice. The weight of the crystal sheen caused trees to give way, carrying wires with them and disrupting public utilities. Many of New Glasgow's treasured ornamental and fruit trees were permanently damaged.</p>
<p>2005: The <i>Queen Mary 2</i>, the world's largest luxury liner, altered its course to bring an ailing passenger to St. John's, NL, for treatment. The 340-m-long vessel was too big to squeeze through the harbour entrance, known as The Narrows, and heavy fog barred city residents from even glimpsing the liner. Heavy fog and severe icing had prevented a search-and-rescue helicopter from reaching the ship.</p>	<p>1903: The snow was so deep in the Tanana country of Yukon that moose were unable to run from hunters. Whenever a citizen wanted fresh meat, he could kill to "his heart's content" by simply wielding an axe to slaughter a moose.</p>	<p>1911: Large winter snowfalls, a late and slow spring thaw, and heavy, warm rainfall turned the Nolan and Junction creeks in Sudbury, ON, into torrents. The water rose swiftly and residents retreated to the second storey or vacated their home. Rescuers canoed through the Queen's Hotel cellar, saving a great deal of material. One resident lost 50 cords of wood; others swam their horses to safety.</p>	<p>1834: According to the <i>Gleaner</i> newspaper, the <i>Isabella</i> was struck by lightning while at berth in the Saint John, NB, harbour. The bolt carried away the fore and main topmast and shattered the starboard side of the deck, before exiting under the fore chains. Lightning bolts struck twice, the first time making a sailor insensible.</p>	<p>2007: A snowstorm that swept over eastern Ontario and Quebec left some 150,000 homes without hydro, caused mayhem on roads, and downed trees. In Quebec, the Charlevoix region got up to 100 cm of snow, and zero visibility on Highway 20 stopped traffic. In Ste. Genevieve, 4 people died and 10 were injured when a minibus carrying poultry workers hit a tractor-trailer. Heavy slush disrupted Montreal.</p>	<p>2007: Northeasterlies drove the 30-cm-thick spring ice pack (some of it harder, stronger old ice) against the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, the worst conditions in 30 years. A wind shift tightened the ice, trapping over 100 vessels, damaging many. As icebreakers began smashing through the ice, helicopters rescued some 50 fishers; 500 others waited in cold, damp weather for nearly 3 weeks.</p>	<p>1893: A journalist's account of "bucking snow" on the railroad: Between Craik and Saskatoon (SK), I counted 195 "snow tunnels," ... from 200 yd. to half a mile [long]. I stood ... on ... drifts and stepped ... to the roof of the locomotive ... The engine struck a drift with such force [that it threw a block of snow] ... 50 ft. ... that ... 3 men could not move. We shovelled and "bucked" ... through 44 drifts.</p>

**1880:** A windstorm struck London, ON, damaging trees, roofs, and signs, blowing off shutters, unhinging gates, and scaring several persons "out of their wits." One building's timbers cracked and reared and iron clattered. A galvanized-iron roof piece was torn off, killing a horse pulling a buggy. Large coping stones flew 40 ft. and a smokestack was levelled, its ruins smothering several chickens.

19

## Weather Quiz

On a cold, windless day in Winnipeg, MB, how much warmth can bright sunshine add to the wind chill equivalent temperature?

- 1) 0 degrees
- 2) - 2 degrees
- 3) +2 degrees
- 4) +7 degrees
- 5) +10 degrees

*(Answer on inside back cover)*

20

**2005:** Although Moncton, NB, received only 0.6 cm of snow, a "dust devil" occurred around the VIA train station. Witnesses said the swirl climbed about 9 m in the air but caused no damage. A dust devil is a mini whirlwind and is not related to a tornado. They are fed by warm, dry weather and thrive especially on overheated pavement (in this case, downtown Moncton's VIA parking lot).

21

**2007:** Fishing Lake (SK) rose to record high levels (with 30-40 cm to come). Some residents built wave breakers and filled sandbags; others packed up and left. Winds tossed ice slabs onto lakefronts and beaches, crushing piers, downing trees, and shoving sheds and boats inland. Hammered by ice and 1-m waves, dykes broke, flooding homes and cabins. Early seeded crops rotted under submerged fields.

22

Earth Day

**1909:** Lightning struck telephone wires near the Ontario Powder Company's office in Tweed, ON. The electrical charge ran into the building's engine room, knocking a big hole in the wall and shaking up workmen. A few metres away stood a carload of dynamite, but fortunately it was untouched. Lightning also damaged the town's electric plant, telephone office, and outside telegraph communications.

23

**1914:** The worst storm of a bad winter stranded 132 Newfoundland sealers on the ice for 2 days and nights; 78 men died while praying. Survivors suffered frozen limbs that had to be amputated. When the storm began, the men sought refuge on a politician's ship. He fed them and then dumped them back onto the ice, instructing them to get more pelts before tramping back to their own ships.

24

New Moon ●

**2007:** According to experts, record cold November (2006) temperatures in the West—13 days lower than -20°C and 5 days lower than -30°C, including an extreme minimum of -37.1°C on November 29—had halted, at least temporarily, the spread of mountain pine beetle from British Columbia into Alberta. Encouraging survey information showed beetles were killed during the November cold snap.

25

**1902:** A loud peal of thunder preceded a rare hailstorm in Dawson, YT. The hail fell thick enough to whiten sidewalks and the ground. Several people were startled by the suddenness of the thunderstorm, which caused electricity to go off and on several times during the storm.

26

**2007:** A common Prairie weather superstition is that 6 months following a frost day comes a heavy rain. Widespread hoarfrost last November had grain growers near Porcupine, SK, worried that copious April rains would lead to flooded fields for a 3rd consecutive year. And, yet again, spring runoff led to washed-out roads and waterlogged farmland. Several farmers were unlikely to seed again.

27

**2007:** Flocks of tens of millions of small migrating birds, mainly warblers, vireos, and swallows, moving north to Canada showed up as rain showers on U.S. weather radar screens. Blue blotches (for light rain) began to dot radar images from the Mississippi Valley east to the Atlantic. Many songbirds weigh only a few dozen grams but, being mostly water, produce a powerful return signal for radar.

28

**1909:** A late-winter "thundersnow" storm surprised western and central Ontario. London got 30.5 cm of snow; Toronto 8.6 cm. At Petrol, lightning damaged the town hall and stopped the tower clock. Lightning-triggered fires were numerous. At Chatham, the local collegiate institute was struck and burned. Railway and streetcar services were also seriously affected.

29

**1910:** Repeated lightning struck Echo Vale in the Lac Megantic district of Quebec, shattering thousands of trees and scattering wood fragments. The fragments ranged from the size of a toothpick to over 0.5 m long. Lightning also entered the ground, tearing up both soil and tree roots. In at least one incident, lightning peeled bark from a tree in a spiral form, curling off 10 m of bark.

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# MAY 2009

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p><b>1929:</b> Blizzards raging for 10 days near Hudson Bay in Manitoba snowbound a train taking 14 typhoid patients from Churchill to Gillam, 3 locomotives unable to free it. Food was scarce; snow melted for drink; engine fires banked to save fuel; and telephone poles chopped for more fuel. Food and medicine arrived by sleigh and a doctor travelled 70 km on foot to relieve the lone nurse; 1 patient died.</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>1983:</b> Thunderstorms spawned at least 8 tornadoes in Ontario, one rated an F4 that took a 36-km path, flattening farms and demolishing Reeces Corners (dubbed the Reece's Pieces tornado). Twelve people were hurt and 50 homes destroyed. "I was ... making pies and thinking how nothing ever happens around here," said an eyewitness, when she noticed her carport sitting on her neighbour's roof.</p>
<p><b>2006:</b> Recent rains combined with the spring thaw turned the only road into Timber Lake, SK, into a quagmire. Several seasons of wet weather had left it under constant construction. A tractor had to pull vehicles through it and those on foot sank to their knees in mud, but repairs could not be made until the road dried. Helicopters flew medical patients out, and a state of emergency was declared.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> The 3rd-deepest snow-pack ever recorded in the Fraser River (BC) watershed had 1,000s of Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge residents preparing for flooding. The Canadian military was on alert. In Abbotsford, 4,000 cows were at risk and sending them to Vancouver Island or Washington State was considered. A disastrous flood in the lower Fraser Valley could cause several billion dollars in damage.</p>	<p><b>1952:</b> A freak spring rain-and snowstorm turned Edmonton's (AB) green lawns into white carpets and its streets into seas of mush and slush. More than 11 cm of snow and 6 mm of rain fell over 2 days. The worst conditions were in residential areas where mud hampered motorists and pedestrians. Damage to trees and shrubs was minimal as their leaf cover was not dense enough to hold much snow.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Recent rains left Edmonton, AB, a soggy mess. Basement foundations were sorely tested when more than double the usual amount of rain for May fell in just 4 days. While plumbers and contractors replaced sump pumps and emptied flooded basements, the North Saskatchewan River jammed floating logs against bridge abutments. Elsewhere in Alberta, already snowmelt-filled water courses swelled.</p>	<p><b>1957:</b> Black smoke from wildfires hung over Sudbury, ON. School kids were sent home; parents rushed to ensure their safety. Homes, cabins, trailers, boathouses, and a lumberyard were consumed as 8,000 acres of dry land burnt (5 km in 20 minutes). Boats and cars were put in the nearby lake to save them. The next week 10 cm of snow fell. A burnt smell lingered, but snow covered the charred remains.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Winds gusting to 75 km/h blew through the Kamloops, BC, area, leaving no part of the city or area without property damage. Trees falling on utility wires caused widespread power outages. At one automobile sales lot, winds toppled a large tree onto two new vans, with a sickening crunch. With smaller branches and leaves flying about like bullets, frightened staff ran into the showroom.</p>	<p><b>1910:</b> Yesterday's 10-mm shower was a godsend to those with homes in or near the bush in northeastern Ontario. Wildfires had earlier razed huge tracts of dry brush, and stiff winds and fires threatened the towns of Englehart, Charlton, and Uno Park. Some farmers prepared to abandon their property. The welcomed moisture was sufficient to check the flames and smother the burning wood.</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>
<p><b>1920:</b> A possible tornado lasting 40 minutes struck near Alix and Clive, AB. A barn roof was taken off level with the loft floor and set right side up not far away as the horses calmly ate hay, no worse for their soaking. A farm wagon landed in the slough, a log penetrating one wheel, and a farm mower lost its bar, the sickle left waving in the wind. A watering trough was found in the bush.</p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>Which weather element is of the most interest to professional golf caddies?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) wind speed</li> <li>2) wind direction</li> <li>3) air pressure</li> <li>4) temperature</li> <li>5) proximity of lightning</li> </ol> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p><b>1882:</b> Prince Edward Island had come through one of longest, snowiest winters in living memory. In eastern King's County, there was so much snow that people were still using sleighs to get around. It started snowing on October 5 and ended on May 15. Total snowfall amounted to 526 cm, about 155% of normal. Especially noteworthy was the 271 cm of snow in January and February, inclusive.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> A warm, dry spring led to early fire restrictions for central and northwestern Ontario. Four out-of-control blazes forced 300 out of their cottages and threatened others near Thunder Bay. Since April 1, 141 fires had burnt some 27,000 ha. Hazy skies suspended water bombing. Dry winds and low humidity could still trigger "sleeping dragon" fires—fires burning deep within the forest floor.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> A whirlwind destroyed a travel trailer left for safekeeping in Salisbury, NB. The air was calm; a split second later the 7-m trailer was lifted, spun in mid-air, flipped end over end, and slammed to the ground. A nearby house shook and gravel hitting glass could be heard, but a trampoline sat unmolested. An hour before, a twister-like feature swirled dust and debris near a Moncton high school.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> In Ontario, wind and rain assailed the Waterloo region, damaging homes, blocking roads, and causing car crashes and power outages. Lightning struck a communications tower, leaving emergency crews without radio contact. In Toronto, when winds caused a 140-kg marble slab to plunge 60 floors off First Canadian Place onto a 3rd-floor mezzanine above a food court, the street below was closed.</p>	<p><b>1853:</b> A terrible fire, driven by a fierce north-west gale, raged north of Ottawa, ON, and along the Ottawa River, sweeping away fences, bridges, houses, mills, cattle, and even humans. It consumed 2 churches and 30 other buildings, including grist and saw mills on Calumet Island in Quebec and in Pembroke, ON. About 200 families lost their homes. Fortunately, heavy rain halted the fire's progress.</p>

**1944:** Without warning, tender early plants suffered extensive damage in the Ottawa (ON) Valley. Temperatures of -2°C froze water in farm wash basins into 6-mm-thick ice. The worst frost in over 50 years, it blackened plant stalks, especially cucumber, radish, cabbage, and tomato. Ironically, strong winds helped save some crops; gales pushed in windows, wrecked silos, and blew away shingles.

17

Last Quarter ●

**1946:** Dust ended Operation Musk-Ox, the Canadian Army's strategic tour of the top of Canada. The 45 team members had often endured temperatures below -45°C on their 5,000-km trek, but on the last leg, dust from the gravelly Alaska Highway clogged their snowmobiles, causing them to overheat. Only 400 km away from Edmonton, AB, a special train had to be dispatched to Grande Prairie to pick them up.

18

Victoria Day

**2005:** A hunter in northern Saskatchewan became stranded on a decaying ice floe surrounded by open water. Two La Ronge firefighters trained in cold-water rescue were dispatched but couldn't find him. He had made his way through the slushy ice to solid ground and then followed the lakeshore to his cabin.

19

**2007:** Following a spring storm that dumped up to 50 mm of ice on homes and power lines on Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula, 1,300 people were left without power for more than 3 days. High winds and the freezing rain downed poles and wires and pulled electrical meters off homes.

20

**2007:** Manitoba politicians battled heavy rain during the May holiday weekend on the eve of the provincial election. Storm clouds prevented the Progressive Conservative leader's plane from landing in Brandon, where, perhaps ironically, he was about to promise to upgrade the local airport's air-traffic services. Showers in Winnipeg forced the Liberal leader to cancel a news conference in a park.

21

**2004:** In Ontario, rain curtailed holiday fireworks, camping trips, and Ottawa's tulip festival. At Kincardine, the raging Penetangore River carried docks and boats 500 m into Lake Huron, and 3 cabin cruisers sank. At Wasaga, the world's longest freshwater beach was deserted. The Coldwater River flooded, and 17 seniors had to leave their home. Leamington farm fields lay under 175 mm of rain.

22

**1893:** Two young sisters died in Ottawa, ON, when powerful winds blew away the cupola on their school. The winds took out trees, fences, flagpoles, and telephone wires and caused extensive property damage across the city. The storm also featured a terrific display of lightning.

23

**2006:** Lightning penetrated 3 points of the metal roof of a provincial government building in Red Lake, ON, which housed forest-fire officials. It ignited the wooden rafters before engulfing the entire roof. No one was harmed. New Moon ●

24

**1944:** A terrific storm lashed southern Ontario. At Rideau Ferry tornado-strength winds lifted cottages and smashed them into matchwood debris. Torrential rains, accompanied by severe thunder and lightning, turned Toronto streets into fast-running streams.

31

**1840:** Forest fires threatened the shipyards at Cardigan, PE, by igniting newly built spars. Fire wholly consumed several houses and barns at Murray Harbour and destroyed a number of bridges between Murray Harbour and Vernon River, but spared the mills. Fences and buildings, including dozens of outhouses, burnt. Fortunately, rain later extinguished the fires.

25

**2005:** A stalled weather system hit the Bridge-water, NS, area. Lakes and rivers swamped roads and bridges, when 100 mm of rain fell on top of the 160 mm that fell over the holiday weekend. Residents got 10 minutes to evacuate. For May, over 400 mm fell at Cape Sable Island and over 500 mm at Liverpool. Over half the days in May had less than 1 hour of sun, including 9 overcast days in a row.

26

**1837:** In Quebec, heavy rain and strong wind did considerable damage to several villages near Montreal, along the St. Lawrence River. Water flowed through many streets and filled gardens, and farmers feared the loss of seed. In Lachine, several shops and houses were inundated, driving inhabitants to the upper floors. On the island of Montreal, the main floor of St. Ann's church was underwater.

27

**1972:** Only a trace of rain had fallen all month in Grande Prairie, AB. That, coupled with a heat wave reaching temperatures of 40°C, had residents gulping down enormous amounts of water. When a pump at the treatment plant broke, the city engineer's solution to the crisis was to "drink beer."

28

**1894:** Flooding near the British Columbia coast worsened as an all-time-deep snowpack melted. At Chilliwack and Mission City, residents worked 8-hour shifts to remove household goods on rafts and build temporary dams. Bridges, trestles, tunnels, and CPR tracks washed away. Masqui, Mission, Chilliwack, and Langley were underwater, no farm building still stood, and over 10,000 cattle had perished.

29

**2007:** Around 6:00 PM, lightning struck a soccer field in Fort Francis, ON, killing a teenage boy. Other children were treated for minor injuries in hospital. The game was cancelled much earlier than 6:00 due to the city's youth soccer league's strict policy of halting games due to lightning.

30

First Quarter ●

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# JUNE 2009

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><b>1901:</b> Soon after a homesteader built a log cabin in Priddis, AB, a whirlwind lifted its roof and top row of logs and set them down on the ground. When the man and his brother woke up, they could see the stars and got up to see what happened. The possible tornado also destroyed a curling rink and a granary.</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>1845:</b> A couple from Miramichi, NB, awoke when rain began dropping through the roof onto their bed. As they moved their bed alongside a stove, lightning struck the stove, shattering it to pieces and killing the woman on the spot. The same storm at Rollo Bay capsized 2 fishing boats and 6 fishers drowned.</p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>World Environment Day</p>	<p><b>1910:</b> Near Cowansville, QC, an extensive frost killed entire gardens, except for radishes. Even melons and beans covered with sap buckets, dug in around their roots, froze. Locals said potatoes might grow again but would not increase much in size. One farmer swore never to plant anything again until July 1st; another complained that the climate was 10 months winter and 2 months late fall.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> In British Columbia, residents along the Bulkley, Fraser, and Nechako rivers fled as floodwaters inundated fields, yards, and roads. Near Langley, 65 cows too stressed by the rising waters to give milk were moved. Inmates of detention centres prepared to evacuate. In Prince George, riverside parks were swamped and lumber mills, the city centre, and some trailer homes were at risk.</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> A 1-hour thunderstorm over Calgary, AB, deluged vehicles and flooded homes. People paddled rafts along downtown streets as emergency crews rescued motorists from cars in waist-deep water; one, an infirmed man, was running low on oxygen. Rainfall intensities of almost 100 mm in 18 hours neared 100-year returns. Animal services picked up 20 dogs, so scared by the thunder, they had bolted.</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>1901:</b> A regrettable result of early June snowfalls in southern Manitoba was the widespread death of countless birds. Many a mother bird was driven from her nest by the weight of the snow; consequently, her eggs or young perished in the wet and cold. In Brandon, 15.2 cm of snow fell during the week. Frost cut down potatoes, beans, tomatoes, and wild fruit but did not injure grains.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>1885:</b> Lightning, thunder, winds, hail, and rain battered western Ontario. Several St. Thomas residents were killed or injured by lightning. In Millstown, some buildings lost all their west-side windows; near Delaware, 50 windows in a farmhouse and all the Gore Methodist Church windows were destroyed. In Parkhill and Jamestown, hail stripped trees and winds ruined fences and small outbuildings.</p> <p><b>7</b></p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p><b>1903:</b> One of Yukon's fiercest windstorms felled telegraph lines near Telegraph Creek. In Whitehorse, awnings and a few roofs were lost and gutters loosened. The noise of flapping boards on the Auditorium roof caused ladies in the upper-tier boxes to flee. Dust covered stores and store shelves. Said one local paper: "Many red eyes were ... seen among pedestrians ... not addicted to the drink habit."</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>1881:</b> A "healthy" cyclone struck Brandon, MB, about suppertime. At the Grand Pacific Hotel, a tent was carried 6 m, then set down among plates, pots, and keffies. A friend of the poor, the cyclone passed over humble abodes and assaulted "lofty temples." Construction material filled the air. Socks, suspenders, and all types of dry goods from a McVicarville store were scattered 2 km in all directions.</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>1880:</b> Near Brantford, ON, lightning killed 4 cows lying under a tree. Strangely, only a limb of the tree showed the ill effect of the lightning. At Goderich, the storm struck a lighthouse, burning the storehouse to the ground, including its contents, and breaking 20 panes of glass.</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Temperatures in central Canada climbed above 30°C. In Montreal, QC, it was 33°C, but the track temperature hit 53°C for the F1 Formula Race. In Toronto, ON, the city's heat-alert response team made house calls to take people's temperature and check humidity levels. The intense heat and high humidity fuelled thunderstorms, twisters, hail, rain, and high winds throughout Ontario.</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Heavy flooding at Calgary's (AB) Queen's Park cemetery damaged 100s of graves, washing away many precious mementos lovingly left on them. Crews had to pump the area to assess the damage to 200 submerged graves, as well as re-sod numerous sunken graves—graves often sink up to 1.8 m after burial and must be refilled 2 or 3 times—and remove 100s of huge tree branches.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Residents along the Fraser River in British Columbia were elated when all monitored rivers had peaked or were falling. The Fraser's levels had never neared those of past major flood years, but a few more warm days and it would likely have overtopped its dikes from Chilliwack to Surrey. Cooler weather and a missed storm system spared 1,000s of ha of land and avoided a massive evacuation.</p> <p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>1921:</b> An account of the Raymore, AB, tornado: "... we raced to the granary ... Once inside, Mother asked for the babies and Father said ... he had put the boy ... under the bed and handed [her] a quilt saying, 'Here's the girl.' But she cried, 'There is no baby.' ... the child must have slipped out when the wind threw him against the woodpile ... He ran back ... and found [her]. It was a miracle ... she lived."</p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>1906:</b> In Ontario, several people died during a storm near Springfield and Inwood. They were killed either by lightning or by wind-whipped debris. An 87-year-old woman near Chatham died from heart failure caused by the excitement. Just outside Brantford, winds lifted a windmill 15 m and blew it over a 7-m-high shed, where it landed upright and undamaged.</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> A lightning strike hit Pigeon Lake, AB, ended in tragedy. A group of 7 took refuge under some poplars, but a lightning bolt arced down and hit the trees, ripping bark off in long strips, causing smoke to rise from the branches, and leaving 6 of them unconscious and 1 dead. Adding to the tragedy, the victim's pregnant wife miscarried. The area is one of the most lightning prone in Canada.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> It was a soggy Father's Day in southern Alberta, breaking a 110-year-old rainfall record for the day in Calgary. Residents between Canmore and Cochrane were on flood watch after tributaries of the Bow River surged when as much as 70 mm of rain fell over the weekend. The drizzle and grey sky kept all but die-hard golfers away and prompted cancellation of a Father's Day drag race.</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>What is the longest measured lightning flash ever recorded in the world?</p> <p>1) 25 km 2) 50 km 3) 125 km 4) 190 km 5) 350 km</p> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Two helicopters flew 12 m above Okanagan (BC) orchards to dry out rain-soaked cherries. The copters took about 4 minutes per acre to blow water from the trees. It cost \$1,200 an hour but was more efficient than fans and blowers. Heavy rain followed by sudden heat and abundant sunshine can cause major splitting of early ripening varieties; damage was estimated at 20% in some orchards.</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>1912:</b> A father arrived at the newlyweds' home in Greenlawn, SK, to find its roof blown away and its walls swirling mud. All he could find was a nightgown gaily flapping from a nearby tree and an unbroken mirror from Grandma's dresser, which he later found unscarred. Fortunately, no one was killed. The bride and other relatives had gone to help hold down the neighbour's roof.</p> <p><b>20</b></p>

**2005:** In Burnaby, BC, lightning struck a runner listening to religious music on his iPod. It ruptured his eardrums, fractured his jaw, inflicted 1st- and 2nd-degree burns from his chest up into his ear channels, and burned his left leg and foot, then obliterated his sneaker. He suffered 50% hearing loss in both ears and could no longer play in the church orchestra. The iPod was burnt to a crisp.

Summer Solstice 01:46 EDT  
Father's Day

21

**2007:** Canada's 1st F5 tornado touched down at 6:25 PM north of the Trans-Canada Highway near Elie, MB. Although top winds reached between 420 and 510 km/h, no fatalities or serious injuries occurred. The force took bark off trees, severed utility poles, and carried a house a few 100 m before it exploded. Two semi-trailers were pushed off the highway, 1 left twisted like a pretzel in a field.

New Moon ●

22

**1944:** Eastern Ontario received from 20 to 50 mm of rain. In Ottawa, cellars flooded and lightning cut power, leaving the police radio off air for 20 minutes, and hit a streetcar, searing the driver's neck and right arm. In Morrisburg, a bolt struck a metal weather vane atop St. Paul's Lutheran Church belfry, ripped a hole in the roof, then went to ground through the knave's metal-lined walls.

23

**1884:** Toronto, ON, was treated to the novel sensation of a shower of frogs. After a very heavy rain, Sumach Street and about 2 km from Eastern Avenue to Gerrard Street were covered with small frogs, which descended with the rain. The 2-day rainfall dumped nearly 40 mm on the city. The temperature was a warm 28.9°C.

St-Jean-Baptiste Day

24

**1901:** After 3 days of extreme heat and humidity, Winnipeggers (MB) expected rain. Yet "hundreds of ladies and ... gentlemen were as unprepared ... as the multitudes in Noah's time were for the flood." Citizens out bicycling, playing games, and at festivals and concerts were drenched by rain, pelted by hail, and deafened by thunder. St. John's College had 152.4 mm, a record 1-day rainfall for the city.

25

**2007:** A windstorm with an embedded tornado struck New Brunswick's Petitcodiac-Salisbury area. Environment Canada confirmed the tornado after interviewing eyewitnesses and examining damages. Trees were felled and playground equipment, rakes, and wheelbarrows were hurled long distances. A trampoline was lifted and thrown 18 m, as were 2 cast-iron rockers (each weighing over 50 kg).

26

**1911:** In Montreal, QC, lightning struck the Church of L'Enfant Jesus. It also struck and set fire to the lovely church of St. Jean Baptist, its great dome collapsing 2 hours later; the flames coloured its towers and crosses burnished gold but left only blackened walls and marble pillars. Near the CPR sheds, a bolt hit and killed a bull in a herd of cattle, causing a brief stampede.

27

**1898:** During a severe thunderstorm, lightning struck a house near the Hudson Bay Co. store in Edmonton, AB. Entering the chimney, it travelled down the stovepipe into the stove (shattering it), and across the floor to a wall, filling the house with smoke. It badly burnt a child's foot, tore his shoe off, and knocked him senseless; another child, a young man, and 4 women were also knocked down.

28

**1955:** Heavy rain caused substantial damage in Winnipeg, MB. Backed-up sewers turned streets into small lakes and flooded virtually every basement in Fort Garry and St. Boniface, some to a depth of nearly 1 m. Disrupted phone service left an expectant mother about to deliver so desperate that she ran into the storm and pulled the corner fire alarm. Response was swift and she was soon in hospital.

First Quarter ●

29

**1912:** Canada's deadliest twister, the infamous Regina tornado, also severely damaged or demolished 400 buildings, including the YMCA, the public library, and 2 huge churches. It took the city 2 years to completely rebuild and it did not repay its accumulated debt till the 1950s. Among the countless incidents, a stable full of horses was lifted and set down on the CPR tracks, not 1 horse injured.

30

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<div>1944: Dominion Day was celebrated in Ottawa, ON, with almost pre-war enthusiasm by 1,000s of government workers. They jammed local beaches and picnic grounds, headed to golf links, tennis courts, and bowling greens, and crowded onto trains and streetcars. Most motorists stayed close to home to save precious gasoline coupons, but some used up several to get out of the city.</div> <div>Canada Day</div>	<div>2007: Weather may have promoted blue-green algae growth in 25 Quebec lakes, including Lake Champlain. Phosphate pollution had been blamed, but heavy rain eroded pesticide-laden topsoil before it streamed into the lakes; arid conditions then heightened lake evaporation, causing higher phosphate levels and more cyanobacteria growth. These toxins can cause vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and headaches.</div>	<div>1883: Kincardine, ON, was struck by hailstones as large as eggs, while strong winds ripped awnings and blew down storefronts. At Stayner, lightning hit the chimney on a photograph gallery, demolishing it and scattering bricks everywhere; 3 men standing in its doorway were dazed and somewhat scorched, though not severely. An umbrella held by one of them broke into pieces.</div> <div>Aphelion 22:00 EOT</div>	<div>1909: A cyclone that swept southern Saskatchewan wrought more damage than first thought. It killed 5 persons, injured more than 100, and demolished countless homes, barns, and other farm buildings. Most of the killing and destruction occurred near Gainsboro and Carievale. Damage done by large hailstones, in some cases as big as hens' eggs, was extensive.</div>
<div>1937: In Weyburn, SK, it reached an all-time unofficial high of 45°C. An egg broken on the pavement evaporated before it could cook. In stores, chocolates and other perishables melted and gramophone records turned to wax. A Regina poultry producer's son saved 120 hens from suffocating by hosing them down at the last minute. Car radiators boiled over and rubber tires softened and went flat.</div>	<div>1913: In Montreal, QC, 34°C heat caused 2 people to die; many others were hospitalized for heatstroke. Thousands left the city, seeking relief, and those remaining crowded into parks and other recreation and amusement areas. At one park, near panic ensued when a small long-haired dog became agitated by the heat and ran through the crowd, yelping and snapping. A cry of "mad dog" was raised.</div>	<div>1993: Canada's highest UV index reading reached 10.1 in Toronto, ON. The solar UV index, a Canadian invention that forecasts the maximum UV for the day, is now used in 30 countries. The index is designed to inform people about the strength of the sun's UV rays and to raise their awareness about the need to protect their health.</div> <div>Full Moon</div>	<div>2004: Raging flames and choking smoke engulfed Yukon, a result of extremely dry conditions coupled with a recent June heat wave. Residents suffered burning eyes and nagging headaches from the fires' thick smoke. At Dawson City, miners were ordered to leave, people with respiratory problems and allergies were told to stay indoors, and restricted visibility prevented pilots from landing aircraft.</div>	<div>1840: In Hillsborough, PE, a severe thunderstorm drove a flock of 35 sheep to seek shelter among bushes and trees. By 7:00 PM, shepherds found 14 of the sheep dead. The supposition that they had been struck by lightning was supported by the evidence nearby of shattered trees. However, where the animals were found, trees did not appear to have been struck.</div>	<div>1883: Ouring a colossal rainstorm, lightning struck and set on fire the Imperial Oil Company paraffin works in London, ON. Strong wind gusts scattered the fire, igniting small treating houses and tanks used to produce waxes and machine oils. The brilliant flames, blinding lightning flashes, and rattling thunder put on a spectacular "sound and light" show for 1,000s of drenched spectators.</div>	<div>2007: Victoria, BC, reached 36.3°C, an all-time record, and had its hottest night (over 19.6°C). Chilliwack (38.8°C), Abbotsford (37.9°C), Squamish (37.6°C), and White Rock (36°C) also set all-time records. BC Hydro asked buildings in Vancouver to cut back peak-hours' energy use. When 2 BC Ferries' workers suffered heatstroke, others refused to wear their company-issued wool hats and long pants.</div>
<div>2007: Lightning injured 7 people in Ottawa, ON, and Gatineau, QC, including 5 teenagers on a putting green who took shelter under a nearby tree. A bolt struck the tree and fanned out through its roots, inflicting minor injuries on 4 of the teens but knocking the 5th unconscious. He spent the night in hospital on a heart machine, tired and concerned by the faint spiderweb marks on his hips.</div>	<div>2007: Conservation officers suspected lightning had killed 13 caribou found dead outside of Arviat, NU. They died within 50 m of each other, about the time a series of rare lightning strikes hit the area. The hunter who found them thought someone had killed them and left the meat to go to waste, but they had no bullet wounds. Oecomposition was too advanced to confirm death by lightning.</div>	<div>1880: A severe but brief storm visited Ste. Agathe, MB, doing considerable damage along its narrow path. It was reported that the wind blew like a "perfect hurricane" and some hailstones measured 10 cm in circumference. For some distance around Union Point, not a stalk of any kind of grain was left, nor was an unbroken pane of glass in the sides of houses exposed to the storm.</div>	<div>2007: A downdraft of cool air or a plough wind (not a tornado) caused up to 110 km/h winds in Saskatchewan that tore off roofs, sent golf carts flying, and felled trees. In Warman, barbecues and a trampoline were airborne, heavy planters overturned, and windows shattered. One person reported a sucking, blowing noise, then a huge bang and the window was gone. Blowing dirt filled the air.</div>	<div>2007: Burnt grass, cracked soil, curled leaves, shrivelled corncobs, 1,000s of dying trees, and faded dandelions were evidence of southern Ontario's driest summer since the 1930s. Open-fire bans and constant water alerts were issued. Toronto's driest summer in nearly 50 years included 95 days in a row with no significant rainfall (above 12 mm). A garden show was cancelled due to wilted blooms.</div>	<div>1903: Torrents of rain fell across Yukon, swelling several rivers, including the Caribou, Bonanza, Eldorado, and Hunker. Miners were devoutly gleeful at being assured of a couple of days' sluicing. In many settlements, the deluge was effective in holding down the dust and giving gardens and lawns a freshness that was difficult to appreciate.</div>	<div>1952: In Crieff, ON, a cyclone ripped out grain and lifted buildings high into the air, then spewed them out as matchwood. Freakish twisters sucked clothes from bedrooms, whipped window curtains from one room but left those in another untouched, and tossed a vehicle 15 m but injured no one. At a Guelph family's farmhouse, 6 young boys escaped injury by hiding under the bed.</div>

**2007:** Over 170 mm of rain devastated Quebec's Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield area, flooding fields, washing out parts of a highway, and creating a chasm that left train tracks swinging over it like a rope bridge. Passengers on the local steam train were returned to Chelsea by bus. Across the road, hay bales floated in a submerged field. Two 50- to 100-m sections of road in the Pontiac region vanished.

19

**2007:** A torrent of rain left Kugluktuk (formerly Coppermine), NU, looking like Venice of the north. The 2-day rainfall totalled 178.2 mm, 118.3 mm of it falling on one day. An analysis of extreme rainfall intensities concluded it was an impressive 500-year event. Engineers designing water-management systems and infrastructure were left in a quandary about future drainage design.

20

**2006:** Like an amplified nor'easter, remnants of tropical storm Beryl pounded Nova Scotia but didn't stop a single-person-boat sailing competition on St. Margaret's Bay. Racers enjoy winds and expect to get soaked. Some 3,100 cruise-ship passengers destined for Halifax ended up in Saint John, NB. One said she picked a northern cruise to avoid tropical storms, but the storm came to her.

21

New Moon ●

**2005:** Around 5:00 PM, in the midst of 15 minutes of heavy rain, thunder, and hail, small tornadoes likely touched down in the Moncton, NB, area. Strong winds ripped wiper blades off vehicles, hurled a picnic table and set of swings tethered to a deck into a swimming pool, denuded a walnut tree, and tore beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, and potatoes from a garden, as if it had been done by hand.

22

**2007:** Parts of British Columbia's south coast had a "funny" July. A 2-week heat spell was followed by 7 straight days of rain, cool temperatures, occasional fog, and loads of overcast. Greater Victoria had never had such persistent rain in July. Vancouver also broke an all-time July record with 7 consecutive rainy days. Usually the driest part of the year, mid-summer felt like early autumn.

23

**2007:** Insufferable humidity during one of the hottest Julys in over 70 years had Prairie residents talking. Over 3 days, Regina, SK, had 29 hours of humidex values above 40, including a 48 reading for 2 straight hours that shattered the previous record of 44.5. Hospitals across the west had to cancel 100s of elective surgeries; exhausted, dehydrated older residents suffered nausea and dizziness.

24

**2007:** Sultry Regina, SK, was outdone by Carmen, MB. At 3:00 PM, Carman reached 34°C, with a dew point of 30°, for a humidex rating of 53 (jungle humidity), breaking the record of 52.1 set in Windsor, ON, on June 20, 1953. At risk for heatstroke, racehorses at Winnipeg's Assiniboia Downs did not run; slushies and ice cream flew out of stores; and a new summer power consumption record was set.

25

**1949:** About 5:00 PM, a thunderstorm at Kirkland Lake, ON, tore out stakes from the Oailey Brothers' big circus tent. The heavy canvas collapsed just as the elephants were being led out. The animals stampeded but an ex-elephant trainer corralled the huge beasts. The only damage was a few air holes in the tent roof. The circus manager said later that 5 baby elephants were still frightened.

26

**2007:** A 15-minute burst of wind, hail, and rain ripped through Huntingdon, QC, at 5:30 PM, snapping hydro poles, uprooting century-old trees, and downing a communications tower. It was a microburst—a sudden, intense downdraft of air that occurs over a small area. Winds of 125 km/h, coupled with bouts of thunder and lightning, caused extensive power outages and heavy crop damage.

27

**1914:** An account of a tornado near Hart Butte, SK: ... the house [moved] several rods ... the cupboard fell flat and broke all Mother's ... dishes. We held pillows to the windows to save them from ... hailstones. ... [T]he neighbor's house was smashed ... [leaving only] ... a ... window ... [and] ... a laundry bag of clothes. The couple stood in the cellar with a trunk over [them]. Some things flew for ... miles.

28

#### Weather Quiz

In an analysis of tornadoes in Canada over 128 years, which province recorded the most deaths?

- 1) Saskatchewan
- 2) Ontario
- 3) Alberta
- 4) Quebec
- 5) New Brunswick

(Answer on inside back cover)

29

**2007:** Bloated fish floated onto the shores of overheated Prairie lakes, streams, and reservoirs. "Summer kill" or fish suffocation occurs when high temperatures and little or no wind create severe oxygen depletion. Shallower lakes, which heat up faster than deeper ones, are prone to it. Near Calgary, AB, 100s of dead ducks appeared on lakes, likely due to a toxin that thrives in hot, dry weather.

30

**2007:** A cyclone-tornado hit near Cupar, SK, exactly 61 years after the last one. It destroyed an entire family farm, flipped vehicles, downed trees, and flattened buildings. A giant combine was tossed 300 m, the rear axle of a flatbed truck was ripped off and hurled 100s of m, and steel grain silos were strewn about. Straw blown into a house reached halfway up the refrigerator.

31

First Quarter ●

JULY			
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	

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

# AUGUST 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>2007: Tropical Storm Chantal caused massive damage in eastern Newfoundland. At Argentia, almost 200 mm of rain in 12 hours, double the historic rainfall extreme, washed out bridges and submerged roads and parking lots. The annual Royal St. John's Regatta, one of North America's oldest continuous sporting events, was postponed. In Dunville, huge boulders were scattered and several roads mangled.</b> <b>1</b>
<b>2007: Vancouver, BC, residents correctly described this summer as one of the worst in recent memory. Only 3 of 16 weekends were fully dry. From late May to early September, 22 of 36 weekend days were wet, and from June to September, almost 2/3rds of the summer precipitation fell on Saturdays and Sundays. In 2006, of the 122 mm of rain that fell in those same 4 months, only 17% fell on a weekend.</b> <b>2</b>	<b>1909: Southern Manitoba had brilliant lightning, heavy rain, and large hail. In Winnipeg, baseball players and cricketers sought shelter. At Morden and Grandview, hen's-egg-size hail drove big holes in the ground. At Dauphin, lightning struck a home's roof, but those inside did not know it until a neighbour checked to see if anyone was hurt. Nearby, lightning killed a \$3,000 horse.</b> <b>3</b>	<b>1878: A deluge of rain—90 mm in 4 hours—filled dozens of cellars in Toronto, ON. Hailstones of every shape and size smashed 1000s of windows. The same terrific storm visited East Zorra, toward New Hamburg, where powerful winds uprooted trees, unroofed houses, scattered fences, and flattened corn and other crops. Streets were converted into sewers.</b> <b>4</b>	<b>2007: In Prince Edward Island, rivers and streams turned red following yesterday's 45 mm of rain; a week earlier, 1,000s of dead fish were found in the Dunk and Tryon rivers. In each case, high-intensity rain had caused silt and chemical runoff to contaminate the water. The recent storm also packed fierce winds that uprooted trees, and a Tignish resident claimed a twister destroyed his barn.</b> <b>5</b>	<b>2007: In Montreal, QC, 1,000s of Scouts at an international jamboree kept to their tents as 44 mm of rain fell. On the Island of Montreal, about 1,300 homes lost power when lightning took out transformers and falling branches brought down power lines. Some drivers abandoned their cars when water rose above the wheels. Heavy rains also stranded commuters and air and rail travellers.</b> <b>6</b>	<b>2005: Near Kamloops, BC, in the presence of stiff winds and bone-dry ground cover, firefighters battled wildfires on steep mountain slopes. Sparks from a nearby train possibly ignited the blazes. Firefighters at Sleetsis Creek, near Lytton, not only had to work in rugged, elevated terrain but also had to contend with rattlesnakes. Warm temperatures made most of the rattlers passive.</b> <b>7</b>	<b>2007: The worst flooding in decades in Quebec's Gaspé swept away trailer homes, sheds, and 3 bridges. Emergency crews evacuated people in rowboats and Zodiacs but had to swim to rescue some. Residents wore boots or wrapped their feet in plastic. In 12 hours, 80 to 115 mm of rain fell; winds gusted to 93 km/h. A trailer 100 m from the Riviere-au-Renard flooded, carrying away the elderly residents.</b> <b>8</b>
	Civic Holiday		Full Moon ○			
<b>2007: In Dauphin, MB, and area, 30 minutes of lightning, rain, wind, and grapefruit-size hail shredded gardens, denuded trees, smashed greenhouses (putting fist-size holes in plastic roofs), dented roofs, and broke shingles, leaving up to 2 years of repairs. Over 60% of damaged vehicles were writeoffs; truckloads of windshields and dozens of repair workers came from Brandon and Winnipeg.</b> <b>9</b>	<b>1949: Food-store workers in Sturgeon Falls, ON, smelled burnt paper. A windstorm 5 days before had pushed up the store's awning enough to allow the sun's rays to strike a display of gallon jugs filled with pickling vinegar. The jugs acted as a burning glass, which concentrated the rays onto the packing boxes the jugs sat upon. Over the 5 days, 1 box had almost completely burnt.</b> <b>10</b>	<b>1843: An inquest concluded that a woman from Cherry Valley, PE, was struck dead on the spot by lightning. Lightning also damaged the house, shattering its rafters and floor beams immediately above and below the victim. The woman had been kneading dough in the kitchen; 4 children and a servant girl who were also in the house "providentially" escaped injury.</b> <b>11</b>	<b>2007: Dead and dying ducks littered the shore of Langdon Lake, near Calgary, AB, likely victims of Type C botulism. A record hot, dry July turned the shallow lake into prime breeding space for the toxin. Ducks that ingest the harmless spores can become superheated ovens for the bacteria, and maggots that feed on the dead birds are a toxic waterfowl snack. Many of the afflicted ducks drown.</b> <b>12</b>	<b>2004: In New Brunswick, Tropical Storm Bonnie caused flash flooding. Up to 70 mm of rain fell in 24 hours in Madawaska and Restigouche counties. Wind-driven rain hurt a Restigouche River paddler's face and kept a camper from pitching his tent. Edmunston reported flooded cellars and road closures. A Quebec man drowned in a shallow stream when his truck overturned. Cords of wood washed away.</b> <b>13</b>	<b>2003: A blackout that affected 50 million people over eastern North America reduced pollution by over 50%, leaving the sky bluer and tripling visibility. Just 24 hours after the lights went out, concentrations of sulphur dioxide, a prime acid-rain gas, had fallen as much as 1/5 of usual levels, microscopic carbon particles were down by almost 1/3, and ozone smog was cut by half.</b> <b>14</b>	<b>2007: West Nile virus had infected 2,351 Canadians; the previous record (2003) was 1,481. The Prairies had 98% of all clinical cases (8 deaths linked to it), its spread was facilitated by a wet spring, a hot July, a delayed 1st hard frost, more infected mosquitoes and birds surviving last year's mild, short winter, and a warmer summer that kept more people outside longer, increasing their exposure.</b> <b>15</b>

**1956:** A mini cyclone swept in from Northumberland Strait and for 5 minutes slashed a narrow swath of New Brunswick beach. Several cottages were pushed off their foundations and lawn furniture was tossed about. The only casualty, except for a cottager's wounded wrist, was a cow hit by a flying verandah. A large piece of a home's roof smashed a corner of another house, where 5 people lived.

16

**1962:** At Newfoundland's Gander airport, a 70-year-old pilot of a single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza wanted a flight plan to Ireland. Horrified officials refused her gas and weather reports, so she asked jetliner captains for news (nice, steady flight, said one) and gassed her plane at a nearby airfield. With her 49-year-old navigator, she took off, landing at Shannon 11 hours and 3,000 km later.

17

Discovery Day (YT)

**2007:** Weather delayed an Edmonton Eskimos—Saskatchewan Roughriders CFL game in Regina, SK. A spectacular lightning flash at 10:36 PM convinced the head referee to order everyone off the field. Minutes later, the stadium went dark and some of the 28,800 sellout crowd went home. When the sky cleared 58 minutes later, the game resumed and the 15,000 remaining fans saw a Riders' victory.

18

**2007:** Westmoreland and Argyle Shore (PE) residents spotted several offshore waterspouts. At Charlottetown Airport, marble-size hail and several distant funnel clouds were reported. Waterspouts are like mini tornadoes—less energetic, smaller, and shorter lived—but some have flipped small boats. Fair-weather waterspouts get energy from warm water but quickly dissipate on reaching land.

19

**2004:** A couple and their 2 boys were driving toward Edmonton, AB, on Highway 16 when a giant bolt of lightning struck the ground beside them. The charge bounced up and hit their minivan, deploying the airbags and cutting power to the vehicle. No one was hurt.

20

New Moon ●

**2007:** Surgeries at a Windsor, ON, hospital resumed after yesterday's record rainfall (56.8 mm). Maintenance was being done on the hospital roof and rainwater seeped into the operating room. Catch basins became clogged with debris and homeowners woke up to water-filled basements and flooded streets.

21

**1923:** In some ways, the Antigonish (NS) highland games were the most successful in their 60-year history. Yesterday's rain had left the track "heavy," but today's stiff breeze quickly dried it out. In financial terms, a less-perfect day would have been better. Several days of soggy weather (100 mm in 10 days) had delayed many farmers' haying, so they stayed home to work.

22

First Day of Ramadan

**1896:** A Lizard Lake, SK, farmer narrowly escaped death when lightning struck his steel mower. The electrical charge removed all paint from the metal and coated it with yellow sulphurous dust.

23

**1927:** The August Gale of 1927, a category 2 hurricane, wrecked 4 ships and drowned 87 fishers. After 1927 most vessels installed raidos to get daily weather forecasts.

24

**2007:** Summer was "hail" for Prairie insurers. Hailstorms pulverized crops, battered homes and businesses, and dented vehicles and farm equipment at a rate not seen in a decade. Some 25,000 crop-hail claims cost \$200 million. Many Saskatchewan farmers reported multiple hits; their 1st claim was sometimes not yet settled when hail struck a 2nd or 3rd time. In places, crops were totalled.

25

**1883:** A strong hurricane swept over the Banks of Newfoundland, doing great damage to the American and French fishing fleets. The storm swamped 2,000 dories, tossing 200 fishers into the sea, for a loss of over 70 lives.

26

**Weather Quiz**  
What happens to over half the people who survive being struck by lightning?

27

- 1) get struck again
- 2) die prematurely
- 3) get divorced
- 4) find religion
- 5) take their own life

(Answer on inside back cover)

First Quarter ●

**1901:** Winnipeg, MB, had perhaps the most violent, shortest storm in its history. For 30 minutes, torrents of rain filled deserted streets and overflowed into cellars of businesses, causing huge losses. For the next 30 minutes, pea-size to 5-cm hailstones covered the city in a white mantle thick enough to require snow shovels and brooms. It heavily damaged property, especially greenhouses.

28

**1854:** A thunderstorm accompanied by spectacular lightning and heavy rain struck Saint John, NB, and its neighbourhood. Lightning destroyed several buildings. It shattered the tower of the Valley Church in Portland, removing the bell but not breaking it. It also struck the masts of 1 or 2 ships in the harbour, breaking the iron bands.

29

**1920:** Near St. Nere, QC, 2 brothers sought shelter at a farm from torrential rain. As they and the farmer's son went to bed down their horse, lightning hit and stunned 1 man and killed the other man and the boy.

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**1881:** An area from Ingersoll to London to Lobo, ON, was victim to a deadly, greenish-coloured lightning. At 1 farm, lightning hit the stock of a rifle, shattering it into matchsticks and propelling the barrel into the ceiling.

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# SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>2007:</b> Saskatchewanians headed in droves to lakes and parks for the warm Labour Day weekend. The holiday ended abruptly for campers at Hackett Lake, near Prince Albert, when a plough wind uprooted several trees, dropping them across trailers, and downed a cellular-phone tower. No one was seriously hurt, though. Plough winds move in a straight line, mowing down objects much as a bulldozer would. <b>1</b>	<b>2007:</b> Of the 31 short- and long-weekend days from June 1 to Labour Day in Toronto, ON, it rained on only 5; all 3 long weekends were sunny. The wettest weekend day had just 10 mm of rain. It was an exceptional summer for fairs, festivals, and street parties and for the lack of severe weather. <b>2</b>	<b>2007:</b> Attendance at the 97th Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver, BC, dropped by more than 5% from last year due to dreary weather. With 7 days of rain, including 3 on pivotal weekend days, the last 2 weeks were miserable enough to keep surging crowds at bay. Rain falling on Saturday or Sunday meant 30,000 fewer people each day. In 2006, there were only 3 days of rain. <b>3</b>	<b>1882:</b> About 3:00 PM in Ottawa, ON, a thunderbolt set Central School's cupola on fire and 400 panicky pupils ran outside. A bolt also broke the 4th class's window and grazed the teacher's neck, severely burning her to her heels before knocking her "senseless." The "electric fluid" (the name for lightning then) resembled a large fireball. A school inspector who was also hit did not recover quickly. <b>4</b>  Full Moon ☉	<b>1922:</b> In Semans, SK, lightning killed 2 Westboro, ON, brothers who were working as harvesters. They had crawled under a wheat stock when the electrical storm broke. Their companion was stunned by the bolt; when he regained consciousness, he found them dead, locked in each other's arms. The 1st telegram sent to their parents in Ontario said that lightning had struck them in bed. <b>5</b>
<b>2007:</b> Thick smoke from illegal stubble burning cloaked Winnipeg, MB, creating tension between city and rural dwellers. It snarled traffic, spawning at least 1 serious car crash. Those with allergies and asthma suffered. A paramedic said it was like having a black shower curtain pulled over the windshield. Some residents worried a fire was blazing nearby and countless home fire alarms went off. <b>6</b>	<b>1899:</b> A tornado blew through Pinafore Park, near St. Thomas, ON, just as theatre players were preparing for a performance. One actor was badly injured and the rest were taken from the ruins with minor cuts and bruises. Numerous other buildings, including a sawmill, a windmill, and a stable, were also damaged in the storm. <b>7</b>  Labour Day	<b>2007:</b> In the early morning in south Calgary, AB, a pilot began to land his hot-air balloon in a field. As he neared the ground, the wind picked up and swung the balloon onto power lines. Fearing electrocution, the pilot and his 8 passengers waited in the balloon's basket for about 30 minutes until the power was shut off. It was the 3rd balloon accident this month in Western Canada. <b>8</b>	<b>Weather Quiz</b> <b>9</b>  According to a September 2007 national survey, which region of Canada appears to be the most worried about climate change?  1) Atlantic Canada 2) Prairie Provinces 3) Ontario 4) British Columbia 5) the North  (Answer on inside back cover)	<b>1830:</b> Heavy rain in Nova Scotia raised the level of the Annapolis River to its highest in 38 years. An eyewitness said the water was deep enough to float a 40-tonne vessel. Corn and potato crops were covered to a depth of 3 m. Flood water also destroyed 100s of tonnes of hay and grain for 60 km along the river, toppled fences, and carried away or rendered impassable countless bridges and mills. <b>10</b>	<b>1859:</b> A tornado with winds from 180 to 250 km/h touched down near Cobden, ON, destroying a man's barn and shanty and killing him. Part of a large stove was carried 400 m over treetops and a massive chimney blew away like dust. Wheat sheaves from the barn were found 3 km away. A neighbour found the man naked and dead, under 2 barn logs—one over his breast, the other across his legs. <b>11</b>  Last Quarter ☾	<b>2007:</b> Thunderstorms rolled through North Dumfries (ON) township, downing trees and cutting power to about 3,000 homes. The wind, described as a white, spinning cylinder of winds (like a tornado), was probably a "gustnado," created by strong downdrafts in advance of a fast-moving squall line and often forming in a cloud-free sky. These swirling vortices are short-lived but pack +150 km/hr winds. <b>12</b>
<b>1920:</b> Over Digby, NS, flares of lightning and cracks of thunder occurred uninterrupted for almost 2 hours. Constant drizzle was punctuated with occasional heavy downpours. St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, situated atop one of the highest hills, was struck 2 or 3 times and left with holes in its roof and walls and damaged windows and frames. Several homes were set on fire and destroyed. <b>13</b>	<b>1917:</b> In Quebec City, QC, a fierce gale and whitecaps on the St. Lawrence River welcomed 100s of visitors arriving to witness the raising of a new bridge span. High tide was ideal for transporting and raising the structure, but a calm river was needed to transfer the span from the pontoons it was built upon to the site. Operations were postponed for a day, despite the loss of some tidal advantage. <b>14</b>	<b>1903:</b> A steady downpour in Yukon's Indian River and Klondike districts flooded gold mines and open cuts on several claims, closing most for the year and throwing scores of men out of work. Numerous dams on the Bonanza and Eldorado claims washed away. In places, September rainfall was 70% above normal. Some mines were able to pump the water out and resume operations but at considerable cost. <b>15</b>	<b>1972:</b> When their plane strayed off course in heavy rain and fog, 4 people from Duluth, MN, missed a wedding in Thief River Falls, MN, and the pilot was fined. After landing his Cherokee 140 on Highway 11 about 40 km from Atikokan, ON, the pilot did not remove its wings and haul it to an airport strip but took off from the highway. When he landed at the Atikokan airstrip, the OPP ticketed him. <b>16</b>	<b>1975:</b> Over 2 days, up to 100 mm of rain fell in Manitoba's Duck Mountain Park-Dauphin and Interlake regions, washing out bridges, inundating crops and farmlands, and aggravating the worst flooding in memory. Near Vogan, almost 375 mm fell over 6 weeks. Water rose around haystacks, confused cattle were stranded on mounds in fields, and cars, farm machinery, and roads were 1-m deep in water. <b>17</b>	<b>2007:</b> A "sniper storm" hit Burnaby, BC, cutting power to 4,000 homes and flooding 4 buildings. On a Coquitlam playing field, lightning struck 3 coaches. Said one: "There was a big flash of white and a boom .... My hair stood up. My watch didn't stop ... neither did my heart ..." Another said, "I ... bought a lottery ticket but didn't win so ... getting struck by lightning and [winning] is ... bunk." <b>18</b>	<b>1846:</b> An easterly tempest roared up the Miramichi River in New Brunswick. Winds threw up large masses of dust and smoke, making it impossible to perform any business indoors without candles. Showers of hail and rain included burnt leaves and ash. The smoke was from large wildfires raging on the other side of the river. The burning leaves excited the fears of the more-timid inhabitants. <b>19</b>

<p><b>2007:</b> Residents of Margaretsville, NS, began hauling water when dry summer weather left them without much supply. Forced restrictions limited water usage to 5 hours a day. The municipality also issued a boil order for drinking and cooking water. Businesses were seriously hampered: hairdressers scrambled to find alternative locations, cafes closed, and rental cottages stood vacant.</p>	20	<p><b>1944:</b> Travelling at a terrific speed, a twister cut a 0.5-km-wide swath across the countryside on both sides of the Ottawa River, mowing down several buildings and 1,000s of trees. The freak windstorm was accompanied by heavy hail and torrential rain. It originated near Haley's Station in Ontario's Renfrew County, swept northward, jumped the Ottawa River, and lifted just north of Shawville, QC.</p>	21	<p><b>1903:</b> A storm that raged for hours over Lake Winnipeg (MB) forced many boats to shelter. A party of 8—a clergyman, a guide, and 6 children—travelling to the Indian school at Brandon left the Berens River settlement in a small sailboat only a few hours before the storm began. It was hoped that they had put into some harbour when the storm sprang up, but they were never seen again.</p> <p>Autumn Equinox 17:19 EDT</p>	22	<p><b>2007:</b> Lake Superior was at its lowest level for September since measurements began in 1900. Drought and warmer temperatures put levels 10 cm below the 1926 record monthly low. From June 2006 to May 2007, the lake's water supply was the lowest in any 12-month period. Ships' drafts had to be reduced by lightening their loads by over 10%, and fish and wetland wildlife habitat were disrupted.</p>	23	<p><b>2007:</b> Summer hailstorms on the Prairies pulverized crops. The Canadian Crop Hail Association reported: Alberta recorded 4,700+ claims, with payouts over \$60 million (27% more than collected from premiums); Saskatchewan had 14,000 claims, above the 5-year average but fewer than in 2006, with some \$115 million paid out; Manitoba claims topped \$14 million, shattering the \$10.6 million record (2002).</p>	24	<p><b>1941:</b> A near-hurricane roared across parts of southern Ontario. Up to 90% of the unpicked apple crop was damaged. The east side of the roof of the Mennonite church in Elmira was hurled on top of a spruce-tree-lined windbreaker. When a Kitchener collegiate lost power, classroom changes were announced with cowbells; the 1st time, students thought it was a fire and rushed to evacuate the building.</p>	25	<p><b>1951:</b> In Ontario, fierce gales inflicted serious damage over 3 to 4 days. Wharves and docks were battered, trees felled, and boats cast adrift. At Cape Croker and Tobermory, fishing tugs sank in high waves; at Meaford and Thornbury, many apple trees were uprooted. At Thessalon, a CPR locomotive and 19 cars derailed. In North Bay, signs were torn off posts and snow, hail, and rain clogged streets.</p> <p>First Quarter </p>	26
<p><b>2007:</b> Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty visited one of the province's largest wind-turbine farms, outside London, to extol the virtues of renewable wind energy. Trouble was, there was no wind and despite the arrival of verbose reporters and a large entourage of blustery politicians, the turbine blades remained motionless.</p>	27	<p><b>2007:</b> A bighorn-sheep hunter slipped and fell 15 m into a gorge near Nordegg, AB. With no kindling and desperate for warmth, he set his shirt on fire. As hypothermia began setting in, he felt warm (not a good sign) despite the rain, snow, and cold winds he endured. He was trapped in the mountain canyon for 3 days before rescuers plucked him out by helicopter.</p> <p>Yom Kippur</p>	28	<p><b>1944:</b> The summer's heaviest rain fell across the Ottawa Valley (ON). It was tremendously beneficial because it enabled farmers to get their potatoes and other late crops out "without using dynamite." The ground had been so dry and hard that it was next to impossible to bring in the harvest. The drenching also readied the soil for fall tillage and helped replenish dry wells.</p>	29	<p><b>2007:</b> Heavy rain on Cape Breton Island (NS) swamped roads, washing away gravel shoulders, crumbling asphalt, and causing soil to sag. At Sydney Airport, monthly rainfall was 185 mm (113 mm is normal), with 36-, 28-, 26-, and 75-mm daily amounts. A Christmas Island to Big Beach section of road caved in and nearby train tracks vanished. Near Georges River, a football-field length of road flooded.</p>	30						

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# OCTOBER 2009

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p><b>2007:</b> Drought-like conditions may have taken their toll on lawns and gardens in Ontario, but it was shaping up to be the best-quality wine ever harvested by Niagara vintners. Sunny September weather had produced great-flavoured wine grapes. Vineyards in British Columbia had also enjoyed low precipitation and mildew-free ripeness during the summer and fall.</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>1910:</b> A huge storm over northeastern Ontario inflicted minimal damage, such as streetcar-line and utilities stoppages. At Haileybury, over 500 persons were in a theatre when darkness enveloped it; candles were used to furnish light. As the storm was unexpected, several patrons had neither a wrap nor an umbrella. Rigs were pressed into service and by midnight the last persons had left for home.</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Wet weather thwarted a plan to stem the spread of tree-killing mountain pine beetles in Alberta. The provincial government had planned to burn about 80 square km of mature lodgepole pines near Banff National Park, which the advancing beetles could attack by laying eggs. But it was getting too late and was now too wet, so scientists delayed the burning until spring.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>1844:</b> Three sailors set sail in a small boat from St. John's, NL, to carry winter supplies to Trinity Bay. Soon, the wind began to blow violently and the sea turned angry. Waves swamped the boat, pitching the men into shark-infested waters. Two sailors died from exhaustion and cold; the survivor had his foot bitten by a shark. Families of all 3 fishers were left destitute.</p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> The Thanksgiving weekend in Ontario featured extremely warm air (10° above normal) with sauna-like haze and humidity. With turkeys roasting in many kitchens, outside temperatures soared to unprecedented levels—above 25°C. Toronto reached 31.5°C, with a summertime humidex reading of 39. Hamilton, London, Sarnia, Windsor, Kitchener, Toronto, and Niagara Falls set new 30°+ records.</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>1959:</b> In southern Manitoba, 85 cm of snow over 5 days at Brandon buried 100s of cars on the Trans-Canada Highway; stranded motorists crowded hotels and motels or local farmers put them up. The roof of a (fortunately empty) school collapsed due to heavy, wet snow. From Brandon to Rivers, over 3,000 utility poles came down. Gladstone farmers used bulldozers and jeeps to corral 800 escaped cattle.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Gusty winds peaking at 140 km/h lashed the coast of British Columbia. At the storm's height, one of the double kayaks used by 8 "extreme sport" kayakers capsized in 2-m-high swells in Howe Sound's freezing water. Of the 8 kayakers, 4 suffered severe hypothermia and 2 succumbed to the cold. The adventurers wore life vests but were poorly dressed for the weather and water conditions.</p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1989:</b> Strong winds had blasted Newfoundland-Labrador for 3 days, downing power lines on the Burin Peninsula and damaging buildings at Gander and fishing vessels in Bonavista Bay. Ferry service between St. John's and Belle Island was disrupted. Sagora Island, on Fortune Bay, reported southwest winds at 105 km/h, gusting to 128 km/h.</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Vancouver's (BC) Stanley Park lost its largest and possibly oldest resident: an ancient red cedar tree about 1,000 years old, reputed to be the largest of its kind in the world. The early October storm that toppled it had the punch of a late-November storm. When the cedar was a sapling, the Crusades were underway, Genghis Khan ruled the Mongols, and Marco Polo was yet to be born.</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>1923:</b> A shortage of rain in the Saint John, NB, area led the provincial power authority to suspend utilities from midnight until 5:00 PM. The drastic measure was to last until the dry spell ended. Rainfall totals from May to October were about 64% of normal. All police officers were on duty during the hours in which the city was in darkness.</p> <p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>1851:</b> A disastrous gale swept over Lake Erie, costing numerous lives. The brig Christina of Sarnia was thrown on her beam ends, and when boarded the corpse of the captain was found lashed to the mast. Nine crew members also met a watery grave, but the vessel's cargo was saved.</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>2006:</b> In London, ON, a tree heavy with snow and bent by strong winds fell on an elderly woman, who sustained extensive internal injuries. The early snow caused accidents galore but didn't deter 150 people participating in a bike-athon to raise money to buy bikes for African AIDS agencies' workers. The charity had moved its annual fundraiser to October to avoid freak wintry weather in April.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> A slow-moving storm dumped copious rain on southern Quebec. Sherbrooke got 105.5 mm on top of an earlier 153 mm. Floods in the Eastern Townships forced some 200 people from their homes and closed roads. The St. François and other rivers overflowed, leaving up to 1.5 m of water on farmers' fields. One grower canoed around his strawberry patch, but most growers had finished harvesting.</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>1920:</b> In Yukon, very low water levels and early October temperatures below -20°C caused early ice up on several rivers between Whitehorse and Dawson. Ice tore up the wheel and rudders of several boats and sank barges. Every American Yukon Navigation Co. steamer below Dawson froze in the Yukon River; 4 passenger steamers and a large mail boat met the same fate between Dawson and Tanana.</p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>1852:</b> A violent south-east gale, accompanied by heavy rain, raged over eastern Nova Scotia. Property damage in ports and loss of life at sea were extensive. The storm drove a schooner right through a wharf and carried away huge parts of bridges and wharves. At Souris, PE, 21 American vessels were cast ashore—all total wrecks; 6 vessels were wrecked at Cheticamp.</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Diehard boaters in Ottawa (ON)-Gatineau (QC) ignored the "boat-breaking" weather of heavy rain and 70 km/h gusts. Boaters are like golfers, said one: "They all want to jam in one last sail." Among the rescued were 8 people treated for mild hypothermia after their boat capsized in the choppy waters of Constance Bay and 2 found hanging onto their capsized sailboat in the chilly Ottawa River.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>1997:</b> A Calgary, AB, pilot died instantly when his small plane crashed after clipping power lines near Crossfield, AB. It appeared the pilot descended through thick mist to get his bearings and hit the power lines. Weather conditions at the time had deteriorated to a 250-m cloud ceiling, mist, and gusting north winds.</p> <p><b>17</b></p>

<p>1865: In British Columbia, the mighty Fraser River down to the tiniest rivulet was swollen to frightful proportions and overflowing natural boundaries, carrying away bridges and washing away roads. Six weeks of unprecedented torrents created talk of another Earth-wide deluge. With rivers of water flowing down streets, several merchants built a wing-dam to divert water from their premises.</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1867: After his cornfield in Keswick Ridge, NB, was cut down, a farmer spotted a large, fluorescent-orange object in a tree. He assumed it was a hunter but, after a few days and no movement, discovered it was an American weather balloon with a milk-carton-size transmitter dangling from an 8-m cord. His children were studying weather in school and the device was popular at "show and tell."</p>	<p>2005: The 20th annual Coats for Kids campaign in Windsor, ON, was off to a very slow start. Organizers were concerned that only 2,000 of the needed 5,000 coats had been collected. Warm weather was partly to blame. October temperatures averaged nearly 2° warmer than normal, many days reaching into the high 20s with nighttime minimums above 10, hardly coat-like weather.</p>	<p>1908: One of the West's worst-ever early winter snowstorms raged, demoralizing railway companies. Officially, 25 cm of snow fell but when blown by gale-winds, snow filled several railway cuts to over 3 m deep. The storm halted trains because the snow was wholly unexpected. A Saddle Lake, AB, man clad in a sweater and without matches left his home to look for stock but perished in the blizzard.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Which hair colour is more susceptible to changes in relative humidity and therefore used in hair hygrometers?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) black</li> <li>2) grey</li> <li>3) brown</li> <li>4) treated hair</li> <li>5) blond</li> </ol> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>2006: Across southern Ontario, precipitation was 42% above normal, the wettest fall in 60 years. Scheduling high-school sports like field hockey, football, touch football, and cross-country was frustrating. A Hamilton sports scheduler said, "It was the worst year I can ever remember for fall weather." In Hamilton, total September and October rainfall was a record 259 mm (155 mm is the norm).</p>	<p>2004: In Nova Scotia, a cool, wet spring and summer meant fewer grapes on vines. The harvest is normally done by September 15, but the cool spring delayed growth and it took longer for grapes to ripen. The hang time increased red grapes' crisp, fruity flavour and their antioxidant content. Fortunately, September was hot and the province's grapes ripened in the first 3 weeks of October.</p>
<p>1840: A gale, among the most severe in 20 years, assaulted Saint John, NB. Waves ran to a great height, sending spray a long way and at one time immersing the Beacon Lighthouse. Wind-wave action damaged several smaller vessels in the harbour and forced many large vessels from their moorings. Two men on a raft drowned. The gale also razed 2 buildings, carrying off parts of their leaden roofs.</p> <p>First Quarter ●</p>	<p>1895: An extensive prairie fire northwest of Fort Q'Appelle, SK, was visible for several days. Where the fire started was uncertain—either by a thresher in the German Settlement or on the Indian reserve. The wildfires destroyed about 100 tonnes of hay, stables, and a horse at Egg Lake. Dense smoke forced a mail driver to turn back. Luckily, the season's 1st snowstorm subdued the fire.</p>	<p>1837: A squall struck the steamboat Bytown in the Kingston, ON, harbour, driving her onto the beach and shattering her cabin windows. Waves then swept away the ladies cabin, Captain's office, promenade deck, and everything aft of the wheel houses. She was raised and repaired but for the rest of the season had no ladies cabin. Also swept away was a parcel of Commercial Bank notes (\$1,000 or so).</p>	<p>1921: The northeast gale that swept St. John's, NL, finally abated. Roads, fishing gear, and public property suffered \$0.5 million in damages. It was feared that the loss of life at sea was high. At Conception Bay, 12 men spent 3 days without food marooned on an island, where they were trapped by the sudden rising wind and sea.</p>	<p>2006: A homeless man who spent 20 hours stuck in a Fredericton, NB, garbage dumpster apparently was trying to escape the weekend's severe weather. A passerby heard his moans and alerted authorities. The man became wedged in the dumpster in a V-formation—his feet and head up, his bum down. While he was stuck, rain, blustery winds, and frigid temperatures gripped the area.</p>	<p>1898: An unexpected blast occurred at a Port Alberni, BC, church. A small contract had been let to blow up stumps in the churchyard, and to keep the exploding powder secure, the contractor stored it in the church stove. When the weather turned cool, the stove was lit to warm the building for church service. Suddenly there was an explosion, and the church was in need of a new stove.</p>	<p>1921: Flying splinters and glass injured 30 people, some seriously, when 2 Montreal (QC) streetcars collided head-on in thick morning fog. The lead cars were crushed to a quarter of their size. The fog's thickness must have muffled the sound of the collision, for no one in the neighbourhood claimed to have heard it. Those who came to look upon huge piles of debris and corpses were disappointed.</p> <p>Halloween</p>

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# NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1861:</b> Three days of rain and furious winds led to several casualties on sailing vessels on Lake Ontario. In Hamilton, ON, gushing sewers flooded streets and clogged them with rubbish. Large trees and building materials floated in the bay; flooded basements were common in flat, undrained districts. No pitch of roof or thickness of wall could prevent the penetration of rainwater.</p> <p><b>All Saints' Day</b> Daylight Savings Time Ends</p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Over 50 golfers in Winnipeg, MB, took advantage of winter's slow arrival to crowd the only municipal course still open. The extra few days at the season's end only slightly made up for the tough weather year for golf. Collectively, numbers at Winnipeg's municipal courses were down by 20%. The city's May-to-August temperature averaged a full degree colder than the previous record low.</p> <p><b>Full Moon</b> ○</p>	<p><b>1894:</b> At Shooshartle Bay on Vancouver Island (BC), heavy rain caused the land under a co-operative colony's cabins to slide 100 m, leaving them heaped at the foot of a cliff along with soil, roots, trees, and giant boulders. Rescuers toiled waist deep in the sea to free the co-op's leader. As the tide reached his mouth, they hacked off his broken leg to extract his body but he did not survive.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Storm Noel hit the Maritimes at the low monthly tide cycle, which reduced tidal surges and flooding and spared life and limb. Waves peaked at 14 m on Georges Bank. Noel, which covered 1 million square km (bigger than Hurricane Juan 4 years ago but much weaker) destroyed beaches and ruined or severely damaged wharves, docks, and sheds. Most trees had lost their leaves so suffered less.</p>	<p><b>1913:</b> A recent cold snap with temperatures dipping to -11°C forced a Port Arthur, ON, physician, who was visiting a work camp, to walk 60 km around the shore of Lake Bateman. The return boat that was to transport him near the train could not break through ice that had frozen firmly in just 2 days. Walking the shoreline was the only way out.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> People in Fort Good Hope, NT, had to ration toilet paper and home diesel fuel when the Mackenzie River froze over before the last barge with staples and new vehicles arrived. It was just a few km away when the Coast Guard ordered it to turn around. The barges are built to float in as little as 1 m of water and 1 tug can push 6 barges strapped together—until freeze-up.</p>	<p><b>1907:</b> In Quebec City, QC, a nor'easter with hurricane-force winds toppled fences and trees, destroyed extensive property in the harbour, and killed countless telephone and electric poles. During the tempest, the ferry pontoon at Levis broke away from its moorings and several schooners in the River St. Charles sustained severe damage or sank, including a barge with 150 tonnes of coal.</p>
<p><b>2007:</b> A rare and very loud clap of cold-weather thunder awoke residents on the south side of Winnipeg, MB. Although thunder has been observed officially at the city's airport in every month of the year except February, cold-season thunder has been reported only 5 times in the past 50 years.</p>	<p><b>1844:</b> Near Kingston, ON, hurricane-force winds and heavy rains began to ease up but not before destroying signs, awnings, fences, windows, and chimneys and raising roots and gables right off houses. Trees were uprooted and boats torn from their moorings, littering the Lake Ontario shoreline with pleasure craft. On Lake Erie, all 400 aboard perished when the U.S. steamer Illinois was lost.</p> <p><b>Last Quarter</b> ○</p>	<p><b>1975:</b> U.S. scientists had solved the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior. In the worst-possible location at the storm's peak, the 218-m ore carrier was broadsided by 110 km/h west-to-east winds, hurricane-force gusts, and 7.5-m waves (likely not seen before by its captain) as it ran south to reach safety in Whitleish Bay. The vessel would have survived 6 hours earlier or later.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Snow postponed the Canadian college men's soccer championships in Halifax, NS. The Ontario and Quebec teams had played to a scoreless 1st-half tie in heavy snow with flakes "as big as one's hand." Volunteers cleared boundary lines and goalenders' boxes for 2nd-half play, but officials decided the weather put players' safety at risk. The players were not happy.</p> <p><b>Remembrance Day</b></p>	<p><b>2007:</b> About 8:30 AM, the bank beneath a Campbell River, BC, hotel's parking lot slid into the Pacific Ocean, taking with it a woman's SUV. Her husband only had time to grab some fishing gear and a life preserver from it. For an hour, the family watched helplessly as huge waves tossed and mangled their vehicle. Then, incredibly, the ocean spit the crumpled machine onto the beach.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> Howling winds in Winnipeg, MB, sent stolen loot sailing into the air. Bank bandits were escaping when a dye pack in the loot bag exploded in a cloud of red ink. As they threw the bag away, the wind took it and scattered red-dye-splattered \$10, \$20, and \$50 bills. An eyewitness called them polite "Canadian" robbers—when one robber bumped into him, he said, "Excuse me, I'm sorry."</p>	<p><b>2003:</b> Searchers found the body of a missing lobster fisher in the frigid, choppy waters at Rogers Head, NB, on the Bay of Fundy. His 2 companions made it to shore and were treated for severe hypothermia. With wind gusts peaking at 40 km/h and 3-m seas, a wave hit the vessel about 100 m from shore and rolled it over. A surge then picked up the boat and smashed it against the rocks.</p>
<p><b>1911:</b> A cold wave across northern Ontario froze Cobalt Lake, trapping gulls in the ice. The birds, calmly reposed with heads tucked under warm wings, did not notice their plight until they attempted to rise at daylight. Those birds that awoke before they were frozen in flew around their unfortunate comrades. By mid-morning, the sun softened the ice enough for the imprisoned birds to get free.</p>	<p><b>2007:</b> In one of southern Ontario's strangest falls, trees were either bare, ablaze in colour, or summer-green. Toronto's October average temperature was 14.3°C, the warmest ever. Frost signals trees to begin dropping their leaves—with no frost yet, some trees remained in summer mode. Also, the growing season had been so dry that many stressed trees hung onto their leaves for nourishment.</p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>Which ship was the first to collide with an iceberg?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Titanic</li> <li>2) Happy Return</li> <li>3) Bergy Bit</li> <li>4) Explorer</li> <li>5) Invincible</li> </ol> <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p>	<p><b>1938:</b> Fog rolled in just before a big TCA (Air Canada) plane crashed west of Regina, SK. An RCMP officer said you couldn't see the mass of flames 15 m away through the fog but you could smell it long before that. The investigating officer had to stand on his car's running board to steer it toward the crash site. There were 2 fatalities, and the aircraft was completely destroyed.</p>	<p><b>1842:</b> The oldest settlers on Cape Breton Island (NS) had never witnessed such a disastrous 4 weeks of successive powerful storms. It was no longer a mystery why the mail was not getting through: countless blocked roads and more than 20 collapsed bridges were impeding it.</p>	<p><b>1900:</b> In praise of chinook winds: Without [them] ..., we could [not claim to be] a stock raising and grazing district without a peer in Northwestern America. ... our herds know not what a stable is [for] their home is the ... prairie ... The ... winds evaporate the snows ..., so [they] graze in mid-winter as in mid-summer. Last week, a Chinook came after ... 11 days [of frost]—a moderating 27° in 1 hour.</p>	<p><b>1957:</b> A bush plane with 3 hunters went down in bad weather over Quebec's Lac Simon. A hunting dog's carcass washed up on shore, but no other bodies were found until 2006 when the site was mapped using side-scan sonar. One body (some flesh and organs still attached, its skull beside it in the silt) was found 15 m in front of the plane, a 2nd body 30 m behind it, and a 3rd in the cargo hold.</p>

<p><b>22</b></p> <p>2007: As Grey Cup host city, Toronto, ON, was ridiculed as much it was for calling out the army to shovel snow in 1999 when the 1st storm of the season (-8°C, with snow, freezing rain, and ice pellets) supposedly shut down the Calgary Pancake Breakfast, a ritual since 1948. The 40 hardy Calgarians really had to shut it down because the music was too loud for nap time at a nearby daycare.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>1946: A powerful gale hit the Miramichi (NB) region. Several Steam Mill homes were abandoned, fences were destroyed, and a schooner partly laden with brick was swept onto a nearby road. Bridges became impassable, haystacks changed ownership, and articles floated into woods and marshes. Several packets were driven ashore and parted asunder. Public wharves were lost from Escuminac to Canso.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>2006: Birders in Atlantic Canada were happy when temperatures reached the high teens. A prolonged fall meant migrating birds like marsh wrens and grasshopper sparrows stayed longer. On St. John's (NL) Mundy Pond, the warmer weather kept lots of insects around, which attracted crowds of yellow warblers. Flocks of robins, northern flickers, and orioles enjoyed berry-laden red dogberry bushes.</p> <p>First Quarter </p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>1950: Waves driven by gale-force winds smashed small boats and carried the cottages of at least 500 Crescent Beach residents (near Hamilton, ON) into Lake Ontario. Toronto received 30 cm of snow (Kitchener, Cambridge, and Guelph got more). Winds uprooted trees, which injured more than 60 residents, half of them children, and blew down 100 m of hydro wire, causing a blackout in one area.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>2007: In -22°C temperatures and a -36 wind-chill, 8,000 raucous but warmly dressed Saskatchewan Roughrider fans attended a welcome-home rally at Regina's Mosaic Stadium to celebrate the team's 1st CFL championship in 18 years. Some fans arrived 90 minutes early. Whereas the temperature was about 4 degrees warmer, it felt colder in Winnipeg, MB, where just 200 Blue Bomber fans greeted the losing club.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>2007: At the height of a fierce snow squall, with up to 85 km/h winds and 5-m waves, a fisher launched his kayak on Lake Ontario near Winona, ON. Called the "Crocodile Dundee" of kayak fishing by his friends, he was found drowned within metres of his beloved boat. The discovery ended a massive 17-hour search of western Lake Ontario by CFB Trenton's Rescue Centre and the Canadian Coast Guard.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>2006: After 30 cm of snow fell over 4 days, Vancouver, BC, had slippery sidewalks. When a mail carrier fell, hitting his head on the sidewalk, one postie said, "If people haven't cleared their sidewalk ... I won't deliver." By law, business and multi-family property owners must clear snow and ice from their sidewalks by 10:00 AM the day after it snows but most wait for rain to wash it away.</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>2006: A couple from Red Deer, AB, used weather data from Scarborough, ON, to pick their Lotto 6/49 numbers and took home \$14 million. The winners researched temperature, humidity, and snowfall on Lotto 6/49 draw nights in Scarborough, where the numbers are drawn. This time the weather paid off.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>1944: In central Canada, winds blew a record 30-cm November snowfall into heavy drifts that blocked roads and runways. Ottawa (ON) Electric Railway sweepers were hampered by a horseshoe shortage— some horses had to be sharp shod in Hull, QC; the clearing effort exhausted some of the horses. In Quebec City, 72 km/h winds lifted 20 roofs and the old synagogue's roof collapsed under the snow.</p>					

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31

# DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>2007:</b> During the first days of December, it looked like it would be a white Christmas from coast to coast. Up to 50 cm of snow fell on Vancouver Island followed by more than 100 mm of warm rain. The prairies experienced a -40 wind chill. And a massive storm from Colorado spread meteorological mayhem into Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada, which had just been walloped by a fierce winter storm. <b>1</b>	<b>2007:</b> Overnight, the Pacific coast swung wildly from one extreme to the other as warm tropical rains replaced an early winter snowstorm. The Hawaiian airmass—dubbed the Pineapple Express—ushered in warm air and drenching rains: 100 to 150 mm in 24 hours. Flood and avalanche watches were issued for upper reaches of the Fraser River, where more than 200 mm of rain soaked the snowpack. <b>2</b>  Full Moon ○	<b>2007:</b> A snow blower duel in Lévis, QC, between an elderly woman and her 43-year-old neighbour triggered a street fight. When the woman blew snow from her walk onto her neighbour's entrance, he blew the flakes right back. It was a real battle of the blowers. Finally, the combatants faced each other in the street, throwing punches. Another neighbour saw the commotion and called police. <b>3</b>	<b>1944:</b> The weatherman termed it "Ideal election weather" as voters in Ottawa straggled to the polls to cast ballots in the civic election. When the polls opened at 10 a.m., the temperature had warmed from the day's minimum of -23.3°C to -8°C and later to the day's maximum of -3°C. With no icy winds and the worst of the snow off the roads, there was no excuse for voters not to cast their ballots. <b>4</b>	<b>2007:</b> A 21-year-old woman in Val-des-Monts, QC, died after a 40-cm snowfall. A temporary car shelter collapsed when she and her mother tried to clear snow from the carport's roof by tapping it underneath. Despite her mother's efforts to save her, she was trapped and suffocated beneath the snow and debris. The victim was a water skier who had represented Canada internationally. <b>5</b>
<b>1867:</b> A severe windstorm in southwestern Ontario sunk the steamer Hero and grounded the River King in the St. Clair River. The wind caused considerable damage to buildings in London, Hamilton, and Toronto. In London, a large tree crashed onto a school shortly after the teacher dismissed the children early. <b>6</b>	<b>1867:</b> A poor unfortunate man from Woodstock, ON, was assisting in the slaughtering of some hogs. On his way home with a butcher's knife in his pocket, he slipped on the ice on the street and fell, the knife entering his side and causing death in 30 minutes. <b>7</b>	<b>1869:</b> Winter arrived early in Montreal with snow and a sudden drop in temperature. Small boys were having a ball launching their sleds down steep hills on city streets. Because roadways were impediments, the boys often brazenly used the sidewalks. A large number of horses went astray. Owners went to the pound to reclaim animals that had wandered off with their sleighs or were taken by boys for a joyride. <b>8</b>  Last Quarter ◐	<b>1956:</b> Soon after Trans-Canada Airlines (Air Canada) Flight 810 left Vancouver, one of its 4 engines iced up. The pilot decided to turn around, but the plane crashed into Mount Slesse. The biggest air search in Canadian history ended after Christmas when the TCA confirmed that all aboard were dead. In 1957 a woman climber found the missing plane about 60 m from the top of Mount Slesse. <b>9</b>	<b>2003:</b> An atmospheric inversion under calm winds caused a bout of smog over Edmonton, AB, prompting health officials to warn residents with respiratory illnesses to stay indoors. The hazy skies and restricted visibility, less than 5 km, lasted for 7 hours before stronger winds ended the smog episode. The particulate sources came from vehicle exhaust, home fireplaces or wood stoves, or all three. <b>10</b>	<b>2007:</b> A 6-km ice jam, the largest in 10 years, caused the Nechako River in Prince George, BC, to overflow its banks. The flood threat forced the evacuation of 13 families and dozens of businesses. The ice formed early in December when temperatures hung around -30°C. When it got warmer, the softened ice blocked the river flow. Work crews built a snow dam and filled sandbags to block the water flow. <b>11</b>	<b>1843:</b> During a rare winter thunderstorm, a farmer at Speke, PE, was struck by lightning. The "electric fluid" entered through a window. It knocked out several of his wife's brother's teeth as he lay sleeping. The charge perforated clothing as it riddled by shot and shattered a chest of drawers. It also tore up the milk-house floor, smashed vessels filled with cream, but left shelves of crockery untouched. <b>12</b>  Chanukah Begins
<b>1941:</b> From Moncton, NB, came word that the Canadian corvette Windflower had sunk because it was rammed by a merchant vessel in dense fog. About 4 m of the corvette's stern was clipped off cleanly, then there was an explosion. In about an hour, the injured merchant ship came back and picked up the corvette's crew. Twenty men from the Windflower floated in the water before they were rescued. <b>13</b>	<b>2007:</b> In 2007 vintners in Kelowna, BC, completed the icewine harvest after temperatures dipped below -8°C. Early-season harvesting limits cluster dropping and reduces the time vines are exposed to predators. The Vintner's Quality Alliance requires a temperature of at least -8° for icewine grapes to be picked. <b>14</b>	<b>2007:</b> In Winnipeg, MB, a kitten was trapped in a crate nailed shut and left in frigid -33.8°C weather under a bridge. Said the humane society, when you lifted the cat up all you could feel were bones. The kitten was named TLC by humane society staff, for all the tender loving care it received when rescued. Staff said the cat was without any long-term damage and was available for adoption. <b>15</b>	<b>1966:</b> After 36 consecutive rain days with an amount nearly 60% more than normal, the BC Tourist Bureau manager said: "If the rain keeps up we might even prepare a brochure on canoe trips for Point Grey Golf Course, where children are already out paddling." There were rumours that a great white light called the sun once used to appear in the sky, but any intelligent person knows that is ridiculous. <b>16</b>	<b>2007:</b> A massive storm battered six eastern Canadian provinces affecting every major city from Windsor, ON, to St. John's, NL. Cornwall and Russell, ON, reported 50 cm of snow. White-out conditions and deep snows meant thousands of motor-vehicle accidents, stranded air passengers, and several deaths. Tragically, just outside Quebec City, a 7-year-old died when her snow fort collapsed on her. <b>17</b>	<b>Weather Quiz</b> <b>18</b>  On which day of the week do snowfalls occur most often in Toronto, ON?  1) Saturday 2) Monday 3) Thursday 4) Friday 5) Sunday  (Answer on inside back cover)	<b>2004:</b> Strong, gusty winds blew apart the log boom north of Traders Cove Park on BC's Lake Okanagan, scattering, an estimated 1,500 truckloads of floating logs. The next day, winds calmed, enabling tugboat operators and shore crews to contain most of the logs, thus minimizing the risk to homeowners. Still, several private docks suffered extensive battering. <b>19</b>

**1910:** A 16-year-old boy from Burwash, ON, froze to death and his father had badly frozen limbs. Homeward bound from chopping wood, they lost their way but kept tramping. By the time they knew the surroundings, the boy could not go on. His father carried him a few metres, but didn't have the energy. The boy asked to be left behind while the father hurried home for the sleigh. It was too late.

20

**1895:** The "oldest inhabitant" in Quebec's Eastern Townships could not remember a warmer Christmastime. At Stanstead Plain, sap flowed from pruned maples. Fence-fixers saw grasshoppers. Suggested causes for the warming? Bearings at the poles were heaved up by frost, bringing us nearer the sun; planetary shuffle; the "big fire" was coming; and bombs fired by President Cleveland had tempered the atmosphere.

Winter Solstice  
12:47 EST

21

**1944:** By heaping record amounts of coal into furnaces, householders in Ottawa, ON, struggled to fight off the outside cold, which stood at -35°C. King Frost was blamed for many a nipped nose and ear. Frozen automobiles meant crowded street cars and long delays in towing calls.

22

**1941:** Ottawa instructed Toronto's meteorology office that wartime weather forecast broadcasts were over. From then on, wind speed and direction data, humidity and barometric readings were barred, except when a bad storm brewed near the Great Lakes. Public weather reports would be a forecast for about 20 hours ahead, previous day's temperatures, temperatures from a year ago, and daily record highs and lows.

23

**1913:** Snow came just in time to save Montreal from having a green Christmas. More than 42 cm of snow fell over two days, interfering with street and pedestrian traffic. Tramway sweepers didn't start clearing tracks until late at night, greatly inconveniencing the theatre crowds going home. The storm created employment for many—2,315 men and 461 drivers removing snow in Montreal for three days.

24

First Quarter 

**1909:** While out hunting, two brothers from Dunkin, QC, found a snake about a metre in length frozen stiff. They warmed it up inside, but when life started to return, they decided to kill it.

25

Christmas Day

**2007:** A couple from North Tyron, PE, saw a strange, spiral-like shape floating in the skies above their home in the early evening. They captured it on film for 10 minutes, and it was visible for about 30. What was it? Black smoke, military flares, jet contrails, an aircraft in distress? A meteorologist dismissed any consideration of the sighting being a waterspout, tornado, weather balloon, or contrail.

26

Boxing Day

**1969:** In 1931 the cargo ship S.S. Baychimo was trapped in ice in the Beaufort Sea. The abandoned ship later became free and drifted through blankets of fog and several storms in the western Arctic Ocean, for at least 38 years. Explorers, scientists, and Inuit reported many sightings. In 1969 some Inuit made the last sighting of "the ghost ship of the Arctic" between Point Barrow and Icy Cape, Alaska.

27

**2002:** A motorist, immobilized without his wheelchair, survived two cold nights stranded in a snowstorm southeast of Swift Current, SK. He stayed in his van, running the engine sparingly and huddling with his two dogs. He decided to go for help. After struggling for a few hours with his wheelchair in the snow, making less than 1 km, a farmer spotted the van and wheelchair tracks and came to the rescue.

28

**2007:** Ottawa had more than a White Christmas with more snowfall than any December on record. The old record of 111 cm, set in 1970, was surpassed today. Other snowfall records smashed this month included the total seasonal winter snowfall amount up to New Year's Eve. The record for deepest snowcover for any day in December was also made: 75 cm eclipsed the previous December record of 68 cm.

29

**2007:** A Quebec man sold the "magnificent" 2-m-high snowbank in front of his home on eBay for \$3,550, less than two weeks after putting it up for sale. His sales pitch was: "Perfect for ski hills. No returns or refunds." Bidding started at 99 cents. Proceeds went to Operation Enfant Soleil, a Quebec charity for children's hospitals. The buyer used it to supply a snowball fight with his family.

30

**1907:** A severe windstorm on northern Vancouver Island caused damage to timber areas and crushed two recently built homes. The noise of falling timber could be heard above the roar of the wind. An offshore steamer rolled almost from beam to beam during the gale. One of the ship's cabin doors blew off and became impaled upon meat hooks at the stern. A seasick crewman hanging over the rail lost his false teeth.

31

Full Moon 



# WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

January:	2) New Brunswick
February:	1) none
March:	4) cold
April:	5) +10 degrees
May:	2) wind direction
June:	4) 190 km
July:	1) Saskatchewan
August:	3) get divorced
September:	1) Atlantic Canada
October:	5) blond
November:	2) Happy Return
December:	3) Thursday