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JANUARY 2010

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Sunday

Monday

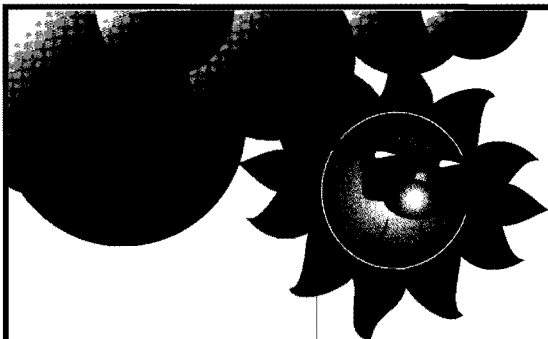
Tuesday

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Saturday



2008: Despite noise makers and netting to keep starlings off the fruit, birds ate up to 80% of icewine grapes in Harrow, ON—the worst bird invasion ever seen by the vineyard owner. It became a race against time: pickers versus birds. One picker, working in -15°C weather, donned 4 layers of clothing, including a snowmobile suit, to pick grapes in the dark.

3

2009: A fierce blast of snow and cold gripped the eastern Prairies triggering record low wind chills of -50—skin would freeze in under 10 minutes. Saskatchewan residents were shrouded in ice fog or digging out from 25 cm of snow. Saskatoon's deep freeze was likely the longest numbing streak below -25°C since record keeping began in 1892.

4

2008: A St-Eustache, QC, man was so sick of winter that he began selling snow from his front yard. "Ideal for ski hills," he wrote on eBay. Bidding started at 99 cents and rose to hundreds of dollars, the highest bids being hoaxes. The successful bidder turned it into charity, selling bags of snow to passers-by and neighbours. Some paid \$10. One gave \$500.

5

Weather Quiz
What is the male-to-female ratio of ice fishers?

6

- 1) 3 to 1
- 2) 5 to 1
- 3) 9 to 1
- 4) 50 to 1
- 5) 1 to 1

(Answer on inside back cover)

2008: Heavy fog in southern Ontario led to school closures, cancelled/postponed buses and flights, and highway closures. It was the worst where snow on the ground cooled unseasonably warm air. In rural areas, visibility was zero, stranding hundreds of drivers. One man died in a foggy crash in the Ottawa Valley on a day that set a daily record for the warmest temperature, +9.5°C, in over 60 years.

7

Last Quarter ☾

2009: A blizzard caused power outages, disrupted highway travel, and grounded flights. Cape Breton Island and PEI received the most snow—up to 60 cm. Their respective lieutenant-governors cancelled New Year's levees. Hospital staff used jeeps and snowmobiles to get to work. New Year's Eve revellers arrested by Charlottetown police had an extended stay in jail.

1

New Year's Day

1973: Five men and 75 cattle en route to South Korea died when their cargo aircraft crashed near Edmonton International Airport (AB) in a blinding whiteout. The jet hit a power line and slammed into a gravel pit about 3 km short of the runway. Winds were 100 km/h in blowing snow. Recovery occurred in -40 wind chill. Cattle carcasses were thrown up to 150 m.

2

Perihelion 19:00 EST

1955: An intense storm pummelled Conception Bay, NL, for 2 days. Parts of several roadways washed away or were left covered with water, rocks, and garbage. At Bay Roberts, water came through the floor of the Salvation Army School. A 14-year-old boy biking to school was hit by a wave and thrown against a pole. His bike was crumpled, but the lad recovered.

10

1952: Strong gales and drifting snow swept across the Maritimes disrupting transportation and communications. Residents claimed it was the worst bout of weather in 5 years or so. The storm dropped nearly 30 cm of snow on Yarmouth, NS. In PEI, freezing rain sheeted telephone and telegraph lines with 5 cm of clear ice. Gigantic wind-driven waves passed over the funnels of freighters.

11

2007: After a major storm across 12 km of the world-famous West Coast Trail, national parks people counted 600 fallen trees. Some of the splayed trees were massive cedars between 600 and 900 years old. At Carmanah, BC, the blast washed out a bridge and a cable car. The Goldstream River, used as an outdoor classroom for thousands of Victoria school children, flooded.

12

1903: Powerful chinook winds blew in the vicinity of Selkirk and Yukon Crossing, YT, downing telegraph wires. The winds continued all night causing multiple breaks along the line. Repairing damage was difficult and slow through fairly virgin country. Mild weather, characteristic of chinook winds, enabled workers to reach the scene without undo hardships.

13

1944: Snowfall in the Ottawa Valley, ON, was less than normal, but good packing made for superb snow sports. A dog was attracted to a snowman made by neighbourhood kids. It turns out the snowman was wearing the dog owner's hat, coat, and mittens. After sniffing and whimpering, the dog lay down beside the snowman's feet, refusing to budge until his owner appeared on the scene.

14

1894: Two men travelled on horseback to Old Wives Lake, SK, to fetch firewood. On their return, they encountered a nasty storm. Unable to proceed, they unhitched the horses, turning one team loose. They mounted the remaining horses and tried to make it to the ranch, but got lost. One man, experiencing his first Canadian winter, suffered badly frozen feet and was in bed for a week.

15

1913: A huge piece of ice fell and killed a mine worker in Sudbury, ON. He was near an open pit when the chunk of ice, hanging about 25 m above, dropped from the wall. The descending mass loosened by thawing weather struck and broke a bench, lifting the victim and killing him instantly. The fatality was the third attributable to a balmy thaw spell in a week.

16

1955: A Hudson's Bay company employee and his Inuit guide walked aimlessly in a raging blizzard on the trail to Iqaluit. A trip that normally takes 10 days took 47. They heard aircraft overhead but never saw one. When food ran out they had to eat some of their dogs. Eventually, they staggered to safety. Apart from frostbite and windburn, they were back to work within a few days.

17

2009: After being lost in harsh winter weather for 2 weeks, a Regina, SK, family's injured dog was found lying by the train tracks. Its tail had been frozen to the tracks. Humane Society staff chiselled him out. With recent low temperatures, melted snow would have re-frozen the tail, trapping the dog in ice. He suffered from dehydration, starvation, and frostbite.

18

2009: A vintage-style, open cockpit, 2-seater plane left Neepawa, MB. After a 7-week stretch of inhospitable weather, conditions improved enough for the morning take-off commemorating the 80th anniversary of the first airmail delivery from Winnipeg to Edmonton. Strong headwinds helped the flight's ground crew, on the highway from Russell to Yorkton, arrive faster than the aircraft.

19

1952: A brutal cold spell gripped most of northwestern Canada. It was -54°C in parts of Yukon. Dense ice fog forced airlines to cancel flights. Taxis did a huge business; grocery delivery boys were the busiest people in town. At such cold, there is a hissing sound caused by one's breath freezing. Small patches of ice fog were seen hanging over sleeping huskies.

20

2008: Arctic temperatures claimed their second victim of the year in Winnipeg, MB, when police found a naked, frozen man in a field near the Pembina Highway. His winter boots, clothes, and jacket were sitting in a neat pile beside him. The man died from hypothermia. In an earlier January freeze, a 74-year-old man froze to death after he left a nursing home for a cigarette.

21

2009: For the past 18 days, fog shrouded most of Vancouver, BC—a result of an inversion of warm moist air above trapped cold air at sea level. Thanks to the mountains and the lack of offshore storms to mix things up, the fog stayed put. It was the second-longest spell of fog on record for January. At times reduced visibility was less than 100 m.

22

1950: In BC, an avalanche swept a train's engine and a railcar into the ice-covered Seton Lake killing 2 trainmen. In Vancouver, 21 cm of snow fell, paralyzing transportation, stranding office workers, and sending pedestrians slogging through deep slush. In the Okanagan Valley, wind-driven power outages put householders in the dark and forced employees to work by candlelight.

23

First Quarter 

2007: Faint cries led a postal carrier in Ottawa, ON, to a child in a field. The temperature was -14°C. Carrying the boy, the postie followed backwards his tiny footprints in the snow and found that the 3 year old had come from a nearby daycare.

24

1972: Thousands of Ontario schoolchildren received a "snow day" when the winter's worst storm, driven by gusting winds of up to 100 km/h, swept most of the province. Owing to high winds, a Michigan man landed his light plane on the westbound lane of Highway 401 about 30 km west of Chatham in early morning darkness.

25

2009: A limo dropped off Canada's Governor-General Michaëlle Jean at the House of Commons. There was no honour guard, no military band, and no 21-gun salute, which traditionally accompany the opening of Parliament and the Speech from the Throne. With temperatures below -26°C and wind chills dipping to -35, officials declared: "pomp and circumstance gave way to weather."

26

1941: A boat from the Columbia Coast Mission in BC sailed for Prince Rupert. A trip of usually a few hours took 4 days. The little ship battled 80 km/h winds and 7-m waves. Suitcases, furniture, dishes, and charts were strewn about the cabin floor. Winds blew down the chimney stack and covered the cabin with soot. Frozen spray encased the lifeboats.

27

1941: One way to dodge winter's discomforts—bitter winds, slippery streets, a hungry furnace, and sluggish auto—was to go to the hospital. Winnipeg, MB, hospitals reported that patients were flocking to emergency rooms in greater numbers for treatment of minor ailments.

28

2009: Windsor, ON, broke its record for the snowiest first half of winter. The new record of 147.8 cm compared to the end-of-January normal total of 74 cm. Three-quarters of the days since 15 November had some snow and there was no pronounced January thaw. Temperatures were some 3.3 degrees below average. And residents spent 15% more on home heating bills.

29

1959: Seem familiar? The Danish ship *Hans Hedtoft* sent out an SOS after hitting an iceberg in fog on the North Atlantic. It was the ship's maiden voyage. The 130 persons aboard perished. The ship's builders considered her the safest and most modern of Arctic ships, designed to plough through pack ice around Greenland. She carried the latest navigation, warning equipment, and the most modern lifeboats.

30

Full Moon 

2009: A Winnipeg, MB, teenager led his younger sister to safety in a blizzard after their father died on a Lake Winnipeg snowmobile trip. RCMP described the weather as "terrible": winds at 80 km/h and visibility next to nil.

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FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

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Friday

Saturday

2008: A man froze to death in Red Deer, AB, on one of the coldest nights of the winter. Temperatures hovered near -37 with the wind chill. He was found face down in the snow, wearing only a light winter jacket, jeans, and shoes. The victim, from Morocco, had not been in Canada long and might have been unfamiliar with extreme cold weather.

1

1976: The Groundhog storm knocked out power for days in Saint John, NB. Temperatures plunged 25 degrees and winds peaked at 160 km/h, toppling trees and utility poles and casting the city into darkness. You could only keep from being blown away by lying flat on the ground. Salt spray blew far inland, short-circuiting electrical transformers for weeks and killing cedars and other evergreens.

2

2007: A baby girl, no more than an hour old, was found wrapped in a towel and comforter on the back step of a Saskatoon, SK, home in -42 wind chill. The resident said his dog began growling around 10 a.m., but it was only when he left 10 minutes later to warm up his car that he found the newborn. He and his wife, a registered nurse, took the child inside and called emergency services.

3

Weather Quiz

4

At the Calgary Olympics, February 1988, for the first time in Winter Olympic history an event was postponed because of:

- 1) avalanche
- 2) terrorist threat
- 3) chinook winds
- 4) blowing sand
- 5) rain

(See answer on inside back cover)

2009: A man crashed his pick-up into a tree near Fort McMurray, AB. Fearing police questions about prior convictions he fled into the wilderness. The temperature was -20°C and he had no coat. He started text messaging friends in a nearby work camp to come and get him. Police search dogs tried tracking him, and a helicopter scoured the area. He was found frozen to death 16 hours after the crash.

5

2008: Recently, PEI was struck by the most crippling ice storm in years. Nearly 95% of Islanders were without electricity. Ice-damaged trees bent so much they looked like frozen palm trees. Trees lying across the middle of the road blocked traffic. Almost 75% of the trees in Summerside were damaged—mainly torn limbs and branches. Relatively few trees were uprooted or toppled over.

6

Last Quarter ☾

2009: A huge ice floe 13 km long broke away from Lake Erie's shoreline, trapping more than 130 ice fishers. Rescuers lowered baskets onto the ice from helicopters. Others boarded airboats that glided across the ice. The ice cracked as temperatures rose and winds up to 60 km/h moved the ice. What really hurt was leaving behind fishing tackle, coolers, snowmobiles, and all terrain vehicles.

7

1921: After a 4-day blizzard, Newfoundland started beating back its worst snow siege in 30 years. Monumental drifts blocked roads and rails. The steamer *Kyle*, travelling from St. John's via Port-aux-Basques to Louisburg, NS—usually a 2-day trip, took 9. A train from the Port-aux-Basques terminus ran into the blizzard and was buried in a snowdrift for 7 days.

8

2009: Residents in the eastern Prairies woke to slippery roads and sidewalks resulting from rain and freezing rain. It had been 9 years since it last rained in Winnipeg, MB, in February. Today was possibly the rainiest February day ever: 26.5 mm. Highways resembled used car lots with so many in ditches. A worker died after a metal roof at a Portage la Prairie vegetable farm collapsed under snow and ice.

9

1868: In what was to become one of the toughest winters in memory across Atlantic Canada, winter's worst storm buried the region in a humongous snowfall. Some 30 persons travelling between Heart's Content and Harbour Grace, NL, succumbed to the elements. The weather was such a hardship that even the best fed and the best clothed would have died.

10

2009: Melting snow, rising temperatures, rain, and ice jams threatened widespread flooding on the Nith River, ON. Police officers went door-to-door in New Hamburg advising residents to stay away from waterways, where slippery banks, fog, and fast water created dangerous conditions. For those near the mouth of rivers, there was an added threat of ice jamming and floods.

11

2009: At St-Lazare, QC, the roof of a stable collapsed under a heavy load of snow injuring a man and his 6 horses. Firefighters cut through the fallen timbers to rescue 3 horses; some suffered deep cuts and were spooked. The incident served as a reminder to property owners to begin clearing rooftops of the near-record snowfall.

12

1923: In Vancouver, BC, a storm loaded with rain and snow was called the worst in 8 years. It played havoc with streetcar and vehicle traffic and coastal shipping, delayed trains and ferries, threw hundreds of men out of work, yet provided employment for 1,000 snow-shovellers clearing roads and rail tracks. In Victoria, strong winds piled snow into huge drifts.

13

New Moon ●

1909: A 3-day storm was underway in southern Quebec, depositing 40 cm. Travelers into Montreal described the day as "as disagreeable a day as they had ever saw." Some people welcomed the snow. Lumberjacks employed in the Mount Orford district had just abandoned operations the week before because of the lack of snow. They had resorted to praying for more snow.

14

2007: A woman died near St-Brieux, SK, when her truck became stuck. While her husband waited in the cab, she went for help in near-blizzard conditions. Within hours her body was found in a pasture 3 km north of the truck. Her husband suffered frostbite. Police warned people to stay with their vehicles even if they think help is nearby. It was the 6th death in Saskatchewan this winter due to poor weather.

15

1959: Five people died when an avalanche plunged over a rock cliff and destroyed 3 houses in St. John's, NL. The snow crushed the flimsy buildings; only a crumpled wall remained. Because it was difficult to move equipment with 3-m drifts on roads, fires were also a threat. The storm took out the city's 2 radio towers, almost halting communication with the mainland.

16

2009: Five porpoises trapped in ice near Seal Cove, NL, faced death unless rescued immediately. They were weak and confused after being in the bay for 3 days, swimming in circles and crying all the while. Ice blocked their route to the Atlantic and no icebreaker was near. Finally, a group of locals in a boat cut a ¼-km path through the ice and led the mammals to freedom.

17

1952: A rotary snowplough made slow headway to free 44 persons on a train snowbound for 2 days at Ste-Thérèse-de-Gaspé, QC, as weather slowly improved. Women and children stayed in nearby homes. Men lodged at a hotel 3 km away. They played cards and walked to the train on the wind-packed snow. The hotel keeper said: "I rationed the liquor yet nobody is complaining."

18

2009: President Barack Obama left Washington, DC, in a light rain and a temperature of 7°C. An hour later, Air Force One landed in Ottawa, ON, amid light snow and a temperature hovering around the freezing point. The crowd on Parliament Hill was small, owing to a cold -10 wind chill and snow. President Obama told the onlookers: "I'm looking forward to coming back to Canada, as soon as it warms up."

19

1955: Winnipeggers shook off the effects of snow-laden winds howling at speeds up to 90 km/h. Schools closed and factories had skeleton staffs. The blizzard piled an estimated 18 cm of snow into drifts up to 3 m high. Outside Winnipeg, MB, storm-blocked highways marooned thousands of motorists. Some had to wait all night before being rescued by RCMP on snowmobiles.

20

1922: Rain, snow, and freezing rain combined in an attack against Ontario's telegraph, telephone, and hydro wires. Kitchener was without power for some time, shutting down streetcar service and stopping newspaper presses. On account of the heavy going, trains were late reaching their destination.

21

First Quarter 

2009: Hundreds watched from a frozen Baddeck Bay, NS, as a former Canadian astronaut flew a Silver Dart replica into the air on the 100th anniversary eve of the historic flight. Conditions were perfect for 5 separate flights over a 1,000-m runway on the ice-covered lake. Next day, during official celebrations, a tricky crosswind and a fresh dumping of snow forced cancellation of the flight re-creation.

22

1996: Canadian meteorologists attending an American Meteorological Society meeting in Atlanta, GA, created a stir with their campaign, "If you have the instrument ... we've got the weather." They were trying to convince weather-instrument manufacturers that Canada has some of the world's worst weather and would be an excellent test site for their instruments, especially in Newfoundland.

23

2007: Temperatures around -32°C forced postponement of speed-skating races at the Canada Winter Games at Whitehorse, YT. Wind chills hovered below -50. Said a local journalist: "It's so cold people are walking the streets with forks and spoons stuck to their tongue. People with traffic tickets are pleading guilty and asking for the electric chair. Politicians have their hands in their own pockets."

24

1956: Hurricane-force winds left a tangle of wrecked roofs, smashed trees, broken utility wires, and poles across southern Quebec. About a million Montrealers were in the dark. The wind was so strong that air traffic controllers had to abandon the tower. So many fires broke out that the Montreal Fire Department abandoned its fire alarm bell system and used its mobile radio system.

25

2006: A 60-year temperature record was broken in Iqaluit, NU, as temperatures rose to a balmy 5.7°C. Pangnirtung on the Arctic Circle peaked at 8.7°C at a time of year when the normal high is -21°C. Instead of shovelling snow, people tried coping with rain and icy roads. February rains occurred only 3 times since 1946, with the last mid-winter downpour recorded in 1986.

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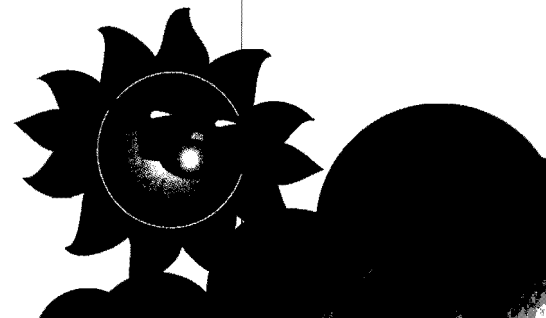
1907: The Prairie winter of 1906-07 was legendary. Thousands of cattle starved to death because the snow was too deep to forage in and ranchers couldn't deliver hay or straw. Today's blizzard was the worst yet. One homesteader recalled that his huge bull was covered with snow in the corral. Steam that rose in little puffs from an air hole provided the only clue to its whereabouts.

27

1952: A CNR train with 56 persons aboard was snowbound at Cape Cove, QC, in the Gaspé. The storm dumped 20 cm of snow. Some passengers, including 12 women—one of them pregnant—were taken to homes or a nearby hotel. About 15 others, including the train's crew of 5, remained on board but retreated to the baggage and express cars to warm themselves next to the coal stoves.

28


Full Moon 



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MARCH 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1869: During a fierce gale Bay of Fundy tides rose some 2 m higher than ever before. Seas washed over the dykes, flooding the marshes. Fortunately, the dykes and embankments were frozen hard or they would have washed away. The wind-wave spray was so powerful that shutters were put up to save store windows in Joggins, NS.	2 2007: The Transportation Safety Board ruled pilot error caused a tragic helicopter crash 16 months ago in the Burin Peninsula, NL. Blowing snow along with reduced visibility in darkness and turbulence contributed to the pilots' disorientation. Both survived the crash but either drowned or died of hypothermia. Survival equipment likely sank, playing a key role in their deaths.	3 1931: Late in the day, strong hot winds brought in clouds of dust from the surrounding hills, throwing Drumheller, AB, into total darkness. Storeowners turned on lights. Motorists proceeded at a snail's pace. Winds continued until the following morning when they whipped snow into a nasty blizzard and tore down fences and chimneys and damaged roofs.	4 2009: Officials evacuated 24 people from a trailer park near Truro, NS, after ice-jammed flooding on the Salmon River. In Pictou County, people watched the ice-clogged and "noisy" East River rise 4 m high. Pieces of equipment, building materials, unoccupied kennels, and other debris bobbed in the waters. Ice cakes, 1-m thick, floated about, rumbling and crushing everything in riverside yards.	5 2005: The Canmore (AB) Ice Climbing Festival had no ice at the annual event, due to unseasonably warm temperatures up to 15°C. Each night organizers filled an 18-m-high scaffolding with ice, only to watch it melt away the next morning before climbers could sink their ice axes and rock-climbing shoes into it. A backup plan was a "dry" wall with plywood boards and protruding nails.	6 1956: A 3-minute "pocket" tornado whirled through LaSalle, ON, near Windsor. It tossed a barn on top of a brand new car and threw a corn-picker onto a railroad track. Winds sucked out some greenhouse windows and smashed others. Near Thamesville, gusty winds accompanied by hail and rain damaged a roof on a large farm equipment building.
7 2009: A tugboat in Johnstone Strait, BC, struggled guiding 2 barges in a storm. The weight of the barges and the weather proved too much for the tug. Breaking seas over the bow blew out its windows, flooding the vessel and short-circuiting the wiring. The two barges were found stranded in the Sunderland Channel, anchored by the sunken tug. The 2 tugboat pilots floated in a life raft for more than 2 hours but survived.	8 2009: In Edmonton, AB, the wind chill dipped to -34 with visibility below 1 km. A woman frozen and in distress was found near death beside a dumpster. At the same time, 2 truck thieves got stuck in a snowdrift. Bystanders spotted the pair and tried to dig them out, but became suspicious. A police dog team hot on their trail tracked them through the snow where they were apprehended.	9 1986: The worst blizzard of the winter deposited record amounts of snow in central Newfoundland. Gander broke its single-day snowfall records for 2 consecutive days for a storm total of 62 cm. Snow combined with winds gusting to 87 km/h created monstrous drifts. One man was spotted standing on a ladder trying to shovel out his buried vehicle.	10 2008: Three Ottawa, ON, men clearing snow from a horse-riding arena jumped to safety as the roof gave way. Snow on the ground was 87 cm deep. It became the 2 nd snowiest winter on record, following a week with 80 cm of fresh snow. Part of a barn near Hawkesbury collapsed, killing more than 40 goats. South of Rockland, a livestock barn caved in, trapping about 80 cows.	11 2007: With widely fluctuating temperatures, giant icicles—nearly 2 m long—became a common sight this winter, hanging on homes in the St. John's, NL, area. Several people were hospitalized with falling-ice-related injuries. Homeowners and businesses are legally liable if someone is injured by an icicle falling from their roof, if the event was preventable.	12 2009: A helicopter ferrying 18 workers to an oil platform on the Grand Banks crashed and sank about 65 km southeast of St. John's, NL. One person squeezed through a window and was rescued. No one else survived. Weather at the time was good: wind at 37 km/h and 3-m waves. With the water temperature around 0°C, a healthy 30-year-old male in a survival suit could last about 24 hours.	13 2004: A huge project to drain and deepen Wascana Lake in Regina, SK, was ending: 1.3 million cubic metres of earth were dug from the 38-ha lakebed. Work halted 3 times because of snow. In later stages, warm weather made the road slippery and mud-caked. Cold weather arrived to help finish off the work. Officials huddled together to celebrate the project's end, seeking shelter from wind gusts of 50 km/h.
Last Quarter 						
14 2008: Authorities closed hundreds of schools in and around Montreal, QC, to allow workers to clear roofs of heavy, dense snow. There were frequent reports of ominous cracking sounds around buildings. The sudden closure made for a frenzied day as teachers herded students to nearby shelters in community buildings deemed safe and parents scrambled to find their children.	15 1940: A spring snowstorm blanketed Montreal, QC, with nearly 25 cm of snow, leading to chaos for 100,000 commuters late for work. An army of men—4,700 strong—was out on the streets fighting the snowfall with the help of 1,028 single horse-drawn sleighs and scrapers, 470 two-horse rigs, as well as 434 trucks and motor ploughs.	16 1833: Residents couldn't remember such intense cold or depth of snow for this time of year. St. Andrews Harbour, NB, froze over and it took hours to cross to and from the island. Deer were literally buried in snow. Hunters on snowshoes overtook them with ease. One person brought 13 carcasses to town. More than 50 lumbermen had to leave the woods owing to deep snow.	17 2009: Three British explorers skiing to the North Pole to measure ice thickness were down to 1 day's food ration as bad weather hampered supply flights. For the past 17 days, temperatures were around -40°C. Three attempts to drop food supplies were aborted in bad weather. A greater challenge awaited: premature ice break-up barred the team's progress.	18 2009: Pest experts warned northern Alberta residents about an explosion in the rodent population thanks to ideal breeding in unseasonably cool weather and deep snow cover well into March. The snow depth at Edmonton International Airport was 33 cm, twice normal. Exterminators advised homeowners to close gaps that mice could use to get indoors, preferably with steel wool.	19 1921: Severe storms—tornadoes, hail, heavy rains—raked areas of Ontario. A farmer near Glammis died when a tornado crushed his barn. North of Holland Landing, floods washed out the Grand Trunk Railway track. Minutes before the train from North Bay, a local resident waved his red socks, flagging down the train to avert a tragedy. Passengers handed him \$28 in appreciation.	20 1949: A plane took off from Chorus Lake, near Geraldton, ON, for Thunder Bay after being thawed out of the lake. A crew of 4 spent 1 week using a portable oil heater and winch to free the aircraft from the ice-fast lake. In late December, a bush pilot landed there on a mercy flight. The plane's nose submerged and the plane froze solid. Over 5 days, the pilot walked to a logging camp through 1 m-deep snow and -40°C.
						Spring Equinox

1955: The village of St. Hilaire de Dorset, QC, was snowbound for 17 days. Its 265 residents faced a serious food shortage. Finally, the priest's housekeeper telephoned a Quebec City radio station to ask that it announce the village's plight. Drifts more than 2 m deep blocked roads and trains. A maple sugaring camp near the village also started to run out of food and its horses were starving.

21

2009: A man was found frozen to death northwest of Yellowknife, NT. A local resident followed a trail of clothing to the frozen, nude victim—a common phenomenon with people who suffer from hypothermia. They have a sense of euphoria, of being warm, so they start to disrobe.

22

1972: A storm near Quebec City achieved what the province had failed to do—stop the biggest strike in Quebec history. The 24-hour general strike by 210,000 public servants including hospital workers, highway crews, and Hydro-Quebec workers was postponed because of the storm. Police appealed to snowmobilers to rescue 500 motorists trapped in their cars. Without electricity some people with fireplaces burned furniture and garbage to keep warm.

23

World Meteorology Day First Quarter ☾

2009: An ice jam at Lockport, north of Winnipeg, MB, and frozen culverts inside and around the city caused the Red River to rise and imperil homes. City crews worked nonstop to open frozen culverts, using steam. Water levels rose more than 1 m per day in 3 days largely because of recent rain and snow and ice-jamming.

24

1955: Gale-force winds blew Lake Erie ice down the Niagara River locking massive floes together in the lower gorge—10 m thick at some points. The jam forced water to rise 12 m above normal, flooding land in New York and Ontario. Ice crushed cottages, docks, and small boats. Engineers set off 2 dynamite charges, but neither charge had any effect on moving the huge pack.

25

1830: One of the most violent snowstorms and gales in 20 years struck Halifax, NS. It was called a "perfect hurricane." High-tide waters rose to an unusual height, covering wharves and sweeping away everything before it. The lower floors in most houses were flooded. A distillery with its wharf and several buildings were submerged. Several fine horses were drowned.

26

1846: A break-up on the Saint John River occasioned by rains and sudden melting caused extensive property losses, obliging the inhabitants to escape for their lives. Small barns were seen floating down the stream. The log- and ice-infested waters damaged wharves. Below Woodstock, NB, 5 important bridges were swept away. A new mill and several barns shared the same fate.

27

2008: Motorists who tried to cross the Malahat highway in BC were hit with snow, ice, and slush that reduced traffic to a crawl. The freaky weather left about 5 cm of snow on the ground at Shawnigan Lake on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island. The colder temperatures and snowfall contributed to a booming year for local ski hills, with close to record snow accumulations.

28

1938: One of the worst spring snowstorms in southern Alberta in recent memory featured strong winds that turned swirling snow into blizzard-like conditions. The storm disrupted train service and halted buses. Trains were often 12 hours late, and only arrived if preceded by a snowplough. Some passengers were storm-stayed overnight, stuck in snowdrifts between cutbanks.

29

1960: Under a general thaw across southern Ontario, rising flood waters stalled 2 trains and flooded hundreds of basements. A dense, pea-soup fog, accompanied the warm weather, grounding air travel in many parts of the province and reducing highway traffic to a crawl. The fog and the rising current of the Humber River in Toronto forced search teams to call off grappling operations for a drowned boy.

30

Weather Quiz
In the 1952 classic *Singin' in the Rain* what was the rain made of:

31

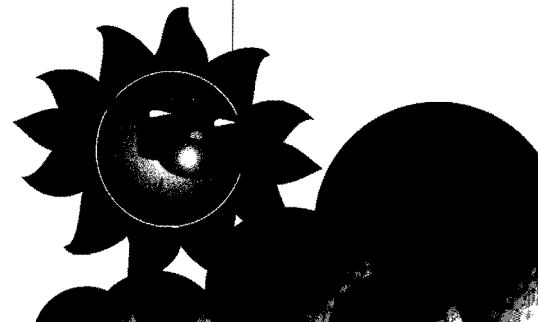
- 1) pure water
- 2) salt water
- 3) mixture of milk and water
- 4) water coloured with blue food coloring
- 5) lemonade

(Answer on inside back cover)

Palm Sunday

Full Moon ☾

Passover



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APRIL 2010

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Sunday

Monday

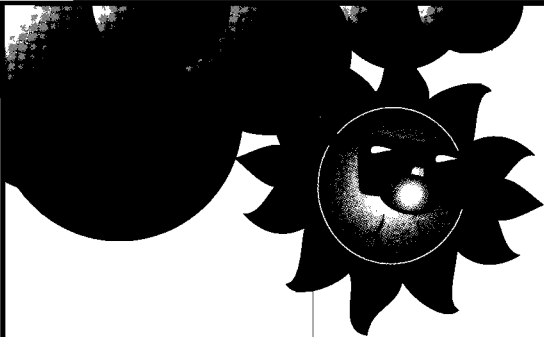
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1963: Powerful gale-force winds buffeted Toronto, ON, and area breaking windows, felling fences and hydro poles, and downing antennas and large trees. Huge timbers from the roof of an abandoned barn were strewn across the west end. In Woodbridge, the roof of an auto wreckers building blew away, damaging 2 trucks and 3 cars.

4

2008: In Calgary, AB, heavy wet snow, salty spray from roads, and strong Chinook winds caused power outages, cutting electricity to 44,000 homes. Drooping power lines forced police to close some roads. Wet snow clinging to salt build-up on wires made the current jump; electricity surged down the affected power poles, setting 25 on fire.

5

1824: A violent hailstorm struck near Lachine, QC. The hail impact broke panes of glass including 50 shattered windows in the schoolhouse. A local hotel and tavern were severely damaged. Old-timers said they could not remember a storm more damaging than this one.

6

2008: Maple syrup producers in eastern Ontario found that sap was rock-solid, delaying the sugaring-off. Freezing temperatures put them weeks behind last year. Problems were compounded by 2 m of snow atop miles of pipes and sap lines. Ideal maple syrup weather is about -5 at night and +5 during the day.

7

2008: Guinness World Records confirmed that engineers in New Brunswick built the world's largest self-supporting dome igloo in Grand Falls, NB, in mid-February. It took 70 volunteers, 2,000 blocks of ice, and 50 hours; was 7.9 m in diameter, 4.2 m high, and could accommodate 200. A stretch of warm weather brought it down today.

8

2008: Outside Rimbey, AB, a gravel truck emerged from thick fog and slammed into a school bus, shearing off its rear end. Sadly, a 14-year-old boy was ejected and killed. No one else suffered serious injuries. A driver who passed the bus moments before said fog was so thick she couldn't see flashing lights from two bus-lengths away.

9

Weather Quiz
In a survey on Earth Day in 2008, Canadians in which region were most concerned about global warming?

10

- 1) British Columbia
- 2) the Prairies
- 3) Southern Ontario
- 4) Quebec
- 5) Atlantic Canada

(Answer on inside back cover)

Easter Sunday

Easter Monday

Last Quarter ☾

2007: During a budget debate in the New Brunswick legislature over snow clearing, an honourable member referred to his opponent as "weather girl." She called his remarks degrading and sexist. He sued for slander and denied the "weather girl" reference was any different than saying cowgirl or manhole cover is sexist. Eventually he dropped the suit.

11

2008: Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto just missed snowfall records this winter. The most snow fell in Ottawa: an excess of 432 cm, 12 cm short of the 1970-71 snowfall record of 444.6 cm—an event often regarded as a 1,000-year occurrence. Ottawans did not see bare ground for 143 consecutive days from 21 November to 11 April, another record.

12

2008: Near the Banff Springs Hotel, AB, a woman died when strong winds uprooted a tree on her. She was strolling with 2 young boys on the paths along the resort's golf course. They had stopped to look at elk on the fairway and admire the scenery. The weather was sunny, but the winds suddenly picked up as a cold front swept in.

13

1861: Within 2 hours, rivers submerged about a quarter of Montreal, QC. At St. Stephens Church, the minister procured boats to convey his parishioners. Property losses were huge in one populated district with several large warehouses. Ice jamming below the city, a sudden thaw, an unusual amount of residual snow, and recent rains caused the flood.

14

1941: A Winnipeg, MB, resident living along the Assiniboine River was preparing for bed when he heard odd noises in the basement. Thinking it was a burglar, he descended the stairs to repel the intruder. To his amazement he found the basement under nearly a metre of water. The noise? Empty wine jugs bobbing and clinking against each other.

15

2008: Lake Superior had its second-largest ice-cover accumulation in 12 years. Ice floes 75 cm thick and several kilometres across broke loose from the western shore of Lake Superior trapping freighters in Whitefish Bay. A small fleet of icebreakers and shifting winds helped break up the ice, and commercial vessels started to move again.

16

1967: A tornado ripped a 90-km path through southwestern Ontario killing 1 man. Near Hensall, more than 100 pupils crouched on the floor while suction from the twister tossed around classroom furniture. Two teenagers said a gun-club roof flew 120 m straight up, then chased them. The twister ripped out the insides of a piano and scattered it across a field. The piano's shell stayed in the building.

17

2008: April is a month of weather extremes on the prairies. In the same week as Regina had record warm temperatures of 28.6°C, winter returned with a vengeance. Heaps of heavy, wet snow and blizzard-like conditions struck from Kindersley and the Battlefords in the west to Stony Rapids in the north. A whopping 59 cm of snow fell in the north.

18

2008: The year without spring is what BC fruit and grape growers called it. An unprecedented cold snap saw temperatures dip to record lows of -11°C. A hard freeze of 12 hours over 3 nights became the death knell for soft fruits. Frost kill was hit and miss, with some orchards escaping major losses whereas others lost more than half their produce.

19

1946: An Easter storm with heavy snow and gusty winds inflicted considerable hardship and suffering across the Maritimes. Between Salisbury, NB, and Amherst, NS, 80 to 100 utility poles fell over. Gas pressure dropped so low in Moncton, NB, that the gas "went out." Heavy drifting meant highway snow fighters ploughed well into the night.

20

1956: Southern Manitoba residents hunkered behind sandbags and earthen dykes as muddy water swirled through communities. In Portage la Prairie a mass of ice plugged the Assiniboine River. In Oouglas, residents used boats on the main street. A Winnipeg woman floated down the swollen Red River on an ice floe. Luckily, a police boat rescued her.

21

1932: During an electrical storm, 52 wild geese were struck by lightning as they flew over Elgin, MB. The jolt killed the birds, sending them crashing to the ground. Those collected were distributed to townspeople for goose dinners. Severe thunderstorms during the day dropped up to 35 mm of rain.

22

2007: Pack ice along Canada's east coast contained harder and stronger old ice than normal. The wind shifted, trapping more than 100 sealing vessels off NL. When the ice started punching holes in the ships Coast Guard icebreakers had to break through the massive pack. Helicopters rescued more than 50 fishers from their boats, some lodged in ice more than a metre thick.

23

1957: Violent storms lashed Ontario with hailstones up to 5 cm in diameter. At Meaford, hail broke nearly all windowpanes in 2 greenhouses. Three funnel-shaped clouds caused panic among a group of fishers who were waiting out the storm at Leamington. Hurling their fishing gear, they bolted—some diving under nearby cars; others took to the cellar of a local tavern.

24

2008: Winnipeg, MB, motorists had already written winter's obituary when another wallop of blowing snow and freezing rain struck. Gardeners eager to start planting had to window shop instead when 10 cm of snow fell. Motorists chipped ice off windshields and shovelled driveways. Weather set off alarm systems and forced Manitoba Hydro to de-ice high-voltage transmission lines.

25

1939: An unusually early thunderstorm struck near Cochrane in northern Ontario. One lightning charge hit a man on the back of the head and shattered both eardrums, deafening him permanently. He also suffered severe burns and shock. Despite the injuries he managed to drive his team of horses to a nearby farm for help.

26

2008: New Brunswick experienced its worst flooding in 35 years along the Saint John River, affecting some 1,600 properties and causing \$50 million or so in damages. Riverside basements filled with smelly, debris-laden waters. Rising waters forced the closure of the New Brunswick legislature. Harried employees at Beaverbrook Art Gallery rushed artworks up from the basement.

27

1955: Skies were mostly cloudy over Manitoba. Around 9 p.m. the weather cleared and an intensely bright ball appeared: 15 cm in diameter with a tail of light streaming behind. Winnipeg and Brandon newspapers and radio stations received a torrent of calls. A West Kildonan resident said the light was "pure white" and the missile looked like a skyrocket. It was likely a meteorite.

28

2008: Nearly 1,000 icebergs drifted into transatlantic shipping lanes and oil fields near the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. One iceberg roughly 100 m wide jammed the entrance of the rocky harbour at Quidi Vidi, attracting a steady flow of onlookers but also preventing ships from going back and forth.

29

1963: Hay River and Fort Simpson, NT, were under siege by the rampaging ice-clogged Mackenzie River. Officials evacuated more than 300 children and 24 hospital patients by air. Some residents had only 3 minutes warning. Some people forgot to untie their dogs and their howls and shrieks were eerie and horrific.

30

First Quarter 

Earth Day

Full Moon 

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MAY 2010

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Sunday

Monday

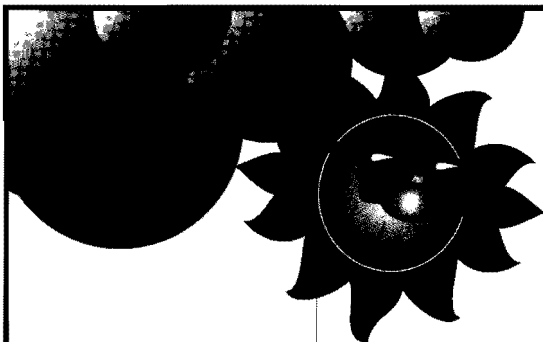
Tuesday

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Saturday



2008: Over 1,500 migratory ducks died after landing on a Syncrude tailings pond at the oilsands near Fort McMurray, AB. The company said recent snowstorms had delayed deployment of 13 sonic cannon noisemakers. Rapid spring thaw had melted the ice. Rescuers watched helplessly as birds that didn't die right away, dove back into the poisonous water. Only 5 survived.

2

2008: Four days ago, 2 convicted killers walked away from separate minimum-security prisons in Agassiz, BC. One, a 73-year-old prisoner convicted of murder, left the facility apparently out of frustration with the paperwork required for his transfer. He returned on his own after 4 trying days in foul weather—continuous rain with minimum temperatures dipping to 4°C.

3

1955: In parts of northeastern Saskatchewan, storms dropped 10 cm of snow, freezing rain, and ice pellets, jeopardizing seeding. Telephone and power lines snapped. Emergency crews from outside SK worked feverishly to restore CPR and CNR communications. Thousands of acres flooded; 30 stretches of highways became impassable. Hundreds of cattle at Meadow Lake drowned.

4

2008: A South African family won its decade-long fight to stay in Canada for health reasons. They came to Prince Rupert, BC, on vacation in 1999 and decided the climate was perfect, as 3 family members have a rare skin intolerance to the sun. 1999 was a good year: it rained almost 2,800 mm, with hardly any sun. The family had also considered Scotland, Norway, and Sweden.

5

2008: Two parents left Repulse Bay, NU, on a 250-km trek to Hall Beach. They pulled their 5 children, including a 1-year-old infant, on a sled behind a snowmobile. On day 2, the family became lost in poor weather: freezing rain, swirling snow, whiteouts, and a -14 wind chill. After a week, rescuers found the family—out of fuel and almost out of food.

6

Last Quarter ☾

1945: During V-E Day celebrations in Winnipeg, MB, wintry weather enveloped celebrants with 2 cm of snow and strong winds in -2°C temperatures. Thousands of Winnipeggers had braved bitter weather to attend services in front of the legislative building in a service of praise and remembrance. Later, snows covered the torn paper, tickertape, and debris tossed during the jubilant presentations.

7

1896: A terrific thunder and hailstorm hit the Township of Melbourne, QC. The storm destroyed several barns, tossed building materials about, and carried the roof of a shed more than a kilometre away. Winds blew down 3,000 sugar maple trees. At Yamaska, broken glass and hail about the size of pigeon eggs covered the ground.

8

1972: Spring blizzards with record snowfall of 25 cm in Halifax and Sydney hammered Nova Scotia. Drivers, thinking winter was over, had removed snow tires and highway crews had converted snowploughs, salters, and graders to spring maintenance vehicles. A 3-km lineup of vehicles developed when a transport truck jack-knifed and left the road near Halifax International Airport.

9

1936: A severe electrical storm passed over Hopetown, ON. Lightning struck a home demolishing its chimney before travelling through stovepipes and along the floor, ripping up floorboards and baseboards. Two boys were standing at a window watching the storm. Lightning tore off their boots and pants and severely burned their feet or legs.

10

1943: Winnipeg, MB, children were to plant trees on this Arbor Day; instead, they threw snowballs after an overnight dump of 3 cm. Temperatures hovered around -4°C. Winnipeg's mayor was scheduled to plant a tree but the proceedings were cancelled. The anti-mosquito committee chairman said that many of the May-born mosquitoes would perish, but the survivors would emerge later.

11

1956: The first taste of spring in southern Ontario ended abruptly with a violent storm. Golf-ball size hailstones flattened emerging crops. In Tilbury, a tornado flayed away at buildings and rains filled streets with a metre of water. Swollen Lake St. Clair backed up, pushing tonnes of water into town. In Stratford, guests at a wedding had to be rescued by boat.

12

2008: Only days after water receded from the Saint John River in the worst flooding in 35 years, a forest fire roared through Oromocto, NB. Pushed by 50-km/h winds, the fire hoppedscotched around and cut a swath through 15 hectares of forest. It crossed into the centre median of the Trans-Canada Highway outside Oromocto and jumped to the other side of the road.

13

Weather Quiz
What percent of lightning deaths occur after the thunderstorm has passed over?

14

- 1) 1%
- 2) 5%
- 3) 10%
- 4) 20%
- 5) 50%

(Answer on inside back cover)

2008: Much of the Northwest Territories experienced a prolonged period of strong winds gusting to 80 km/h, lifting tonnes of winter grit into enormous clouds of dust. At times, the dust clouds were so thick it appeared as a brown fog. Garbage filled the air in downtown Yellowknife, NT. High winds kicked over several dead trees as far south as Edmonton, AB.

15

2008: Hot, dry, sunny conditions and high winds turned parts of the prairies into a tinderbox. Wildfires near Newbrook, AB, prompted a state of emergency. Officials closed highways and ordered residents to leave towns and reserves. RCMP closed a major highway so that fire-fighting equipment could be rushed in. In Deschambault Lake, SK, 2,000 residents had to flee.

16

1944: Frost damaged tomatoes and other tender early plants in the Ottawa Valley, ON. The cold was so severe—the worst in 54 years—that plant stalks hardened and turned black. Early market garden crops were a total loss. Ice a quarter inch thick formed in farm pails and wash basins. The ground temperature at night touched -4°C.

17

2007: Cool temperatures had a moderating effect on spring snowmelt in BC's Fraser Valley. Only 18% of the melt water had passed through the lower reaches, well below the normal of 25%. Officials distributed sandbags to communities along the Fraser. Two days of heavy rain in the upper watersheds added 2,000 cubic metres per second of water cascading down the river.

18

2008: About 70,000 red garter snakes slithered up from their subterranean limestone dens into the sunshine at Teulon, MB, before heading off to nearby marshes to begin a 2 to 3-week mating frenzy. Snake numbers at the Narcisse dens were lower because of cool spring weather.

19

2006: After 9 days of rain, the Yamaska and Aux Brochets Rivers in Quebec overflowed, forcing about 200 people from their homes. Meteorologists blamed a stationary upper low hovering over the Great Lakes for dropping more than 140 mm of rain. Evacuees faced water-filled basements upon their return. Cowansville was the worst hit.

20

2008: Owing to a harsh winter, wildlife managers in New Brunswick limited hunting licenses. The province lost 20,000 deer to record deep snows and extended cold periods. It is difficult for deer to forage in deep snow, making them easy prey. Officials reported record calls from people complaining about deer wandering into apple orchards and grazing on private property.

21

2007: Albertans near Cremona woke to heavy snow: a downer for many Victoria Day revellers. Rain and snow continued for most of the day, prompting an early exit from holiday camping spots. Flurries could not, however, dampen the spirits of children at the Calgary Zoo who had donned mittens, winter jackets, and boots.

22

First Quarter 

1912: A thunderstorm swept across Manitoulin Island, ON. A tugboat captain was struck as he stood in the wheelhouse; he lived. At Burpee, lightning ignited a Union Jack flying over a town office.

23

1939: A crowd lined Winnipeg streets in constant rainfall to glimpse King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. All umbrellas went down so as not to obstruct a view of the Royals. The Queen ordered the car's top lowered for the procession. Victoria Day

24

1873: A tornado passed through Perth, ON, exceeding in violence and destruction anything within memory. People knocked over were rolled along the ground; yet there were no reports of injuries.

30

2006: La Tuque, QC, declared a state of emergency after heavy rains washed out roads. About 100 mm of rain fell in a few hours. Nobody was hurt when one vehicle fell into a crater and another dangled over the edge.

31

1840: Fires raged the woods across PEI destroying valuable timber and grain, particularly in the Murray Harbour area. A schoolhouse burned to the ground. On the road to Vernon River, fires destroyed several bridges, interrupting travel for months to come. Several buildings and out-houses were reduced to ashes. Fortunately rains helped extinguish the fires.

25

2008: An abandoned railway yard in Montreal, QC, was used to pile the winter's near-record snowfall of 371.4 cm. Snow-clearing crews had nowhere else to dump it except in huge vacant properties. The ugly grey mass was expected to hang on past summer. Workers constantly dug through the grimy mountain of snow with large machines hoping that rain and the sun would melt it.

26

1924: During a heavy rain shower, a miniature cyclone passed through Wrentham, AB. In crossing the school grounds, it picked up 2 of the outbuildings and moved them a distance of 15 m. Other small buildings were knocked over, giving that part of town the appearance of a morning after Halloween.

27

1845: In Quebec City, QC, the week was remarkably warm and dry, rendering roofs highly susceptible to ignition. Fires broke out and burning cinders were carried afar by fresh winds. Onwards and upwards swept the flames—street after street fell before them. Between 1,500 and 2,000 houses were consumed and 12,000 people, 1/3 of the population, became "houseless."

28

2003: Inside a Regina, SK, restaurant, it sounded like thunder. Astonished patrons watched strong winds gusting to 90 km/h tear a large chunk of sheet metal roof, sending it airborne. At Regina Airport, the highest observed gust was 96 km/h. Downtown, police diverted traffic while the restaurant owner made arrangements to remove the storm debris. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

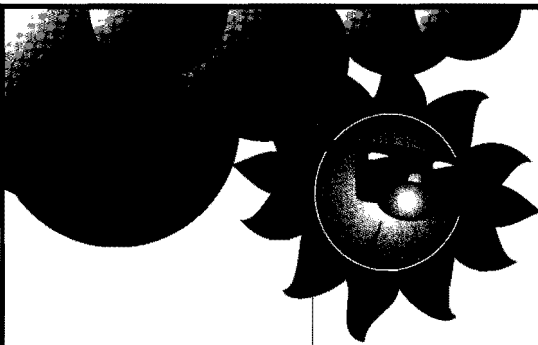
29

Full Moon 

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JUNE 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2002: At the Multi-Sport Race near Chance Harbour, NB, a participant succumbed in the Bay of Fundy's chilly waters after capsizing his kayak twice. Winds and Fundy's ferocious tides made the kayaking stage a struggle. Several participants tipped their boats. Others abandoned the race just beyond the harbour's mouth where waters became chaotic seas. 1	1920: During a thunderstorm, a woman in Maberly, ON, went to close the kitchen door when a flash of lightning struck a nearby milk-can cover, burning the solder and giving her a severe shock. The charge of electricity paralyzed her left arm and side. 2	1914: Hailstones the size of pigeon eggs fell during a storm at Bittern Lake, AB. The storm smashed windows, overturned 15 small structures, blew off the roofs of 2 boxcars, and killed hundreds of chickens. Hail entered through windows on the east side and broke windows on the opposite side. Old-timers claimed they had never seen such a storm. 3	2008: Conditions in eastern Canada were perfect for blackflies to breed: near-record snows, fast-running waters, relatively cool early-spring temperatures, low winds, and slight cloud cover. Entomologists observed larvae densities 5 times higher than usual from southern Ontario to Labrador. 4	1816: Snowdrifts in Quebec City, QC, reached the "axle trees of carriages." In Montreal, standing water froze to the thickness of an "American dollar coin." Freshly shorn sheep died. Birds took shelter in houses or fell dead. People reportedly died that summer from hunger, exposure, or disease. Smoke, dust, and gas from the Tambora volcano circulated the globe. So was the year without summer. 5
					Last Quarter ☾	World Environment Day
2008: Nasty rainy and windy weather in Winnipeg, MB, knocked down power lines, and several outdoor events had to be cancelled. Record rains of 50 mm killed 3 peregrine falcon chicks believed to have drowned on the 13 th -storey ledge of a hotel. A specially trained firefighter had rappelled down the hotel wall, retrieving the chicks from their nest. 6	1958: The largest single-incident loss of life in the 135-year history of the RCMP occurred when waves ¼ m high swamped an overcrowded, overloaded boat on stormy Lake Simcoe, ON: 5 young officers died. The lake had been calm, but around midnight, "a hell of a storm" sprang up. The surface water temperature was 11°C but was much colder 2 m below. 7	2008: Heavy rains, 35 mm in 12 hours, fell near Pangnirtung, NU. The rains along with temperatures 8 degrees warmer than normal and strong winds caused rapid snowmelt that carved a 10-m channel through permafrost right down to bedrock. The outflow washed out a road and 2 bridges over the Duvall River. Hundreds of residents had no access to municipal services. 8	2008: By now, BC residents expect warmth and sunshine. But those along the coast shivered in record-breaking cold, wet, windy weather. Victoria and Vancouver set records for the lowest highs on 6 and 9 June: 12°C and 11°C. One wit called it "January." Emerging vegetables struggled; some crops were at least 10 days behind. Marijuana growers were also concerned. 9	2008: In Montreal, QC, clashing cold and warm fronts set off a storm, "a microburst," toppling century-old trees and ending the summer's only heat wave. Wind gusts of 111 km/h and baseball-size hail knocked out power to 63,000 Hydro-Québec customers. Near-hurricane-force winds churned up the St. Lawrence. On the Champlain Bridge, the microburst tipped over 7 tractor-trailers, injuring 2 people. 10	1880: A man driving a horse and wagon tried to ford the Thames River in London, ON, swollen by 60 mm of rain. The horse was swept off his feet and, with the wagon and driver, carried downriver. The driver unfastened the bridle and suddenly the horse, after being under water, broke loose and swam for shore. The man survived; the horse did not. 11	1923: A cyclone hit southern Alberta. Lightning struck trees and set fire to buildings in Cardston. At Rimbey, the storm blew part of a 25-m long machine shed 45 m away. Hailstones as large as hens' eggs broke hundreds of windows. Two children in a buggy were thrown when the team of storm-spooked horses bolted. Silt buried gardens and crops. 12
						New Moon ●
2008: Blustery winds fed a large wildfire through the Porters Lake area northeast of Halifax, NS, forcing 5,000 people to evacuate. The brushfire burned for 36 hours, leeding off dead, dried-out trees toppled almost 5 years earlier during Hurricane Juan. Powerful gusts and thick black smoke hampered firefighters. The closure of a major highway exit caused a massive tie-up near Halifax. 13	2008: A Welland, ON, man sailed from Port Colborne under a stiff breeze and choppy sea. The winds knocked the boom and in turn him into Lake Erie 10 km from shore. When he came to, his boat was gone. He treaded water for 13 hours before rescue. Canadian and American authorities searched all night after his deserted sailboat drifted near Chautauqua County in US waters. 14	1897: Lightning struck a fruit store in Georgeville, QC, entering the building through an attic window and travelling down the wall, peeling off plaster. It shot across to the nearest electric light wire and burned out a switch. The blast stunned some occupants, but they recovered and ran out of the smoke-filled building. Hail in places was over 30 cm deep. 15	1950: In Marshfield, Wisconsin, 2 Americans believing that most of last winter's harsh weather originated in Canada, decided to bill the Canadian Government for \$136, half of their annual heating bill. North of Wisconsin across the eastern prairies and northern Ontario, winter 1949–50 still stands out as the coldest in more than 60 years. 16	1922: It rained for 5 straight days in New Brunswick. Eventually a dam on the Tetagouche River gave way from rising waters filled with 6 million feet of lumber and debris. Half the lumber escaped into the Saint John River; the rest jammed against a Canadian Pacific bridge at Hartland pushing it more than a metre out of alignment. 17	2008: Two men from Vancouver, BC, attempting a 17-day trek in the Rockies were stranded by poor weather for almost 3 weeks. The climbers summited Mount Robson battling the elements and eating snow to stay alive. A Parks Canada helicopter was sputtering in the thin air. Just as the pilot was ready to give up he spotted the pair, incoherent and struggling just to walk. 18	2008: Lightning killed 5 cows in South Melville, PE. The electric current first hit nearby trees then jumped to the animals. The damage could have been worse with 20 or 30 cows commonly gathering together during foul weather. The farmer suffered an emotional as well as financial hit: he had milked some of the cows for more than 20 years. [Adapted from Jim Day, <i>Charlottetown Guardian</i>] 19

1895: A large hailstorm with copious amounts of rain struck Ellisboro, SK. The hail spared crops but killed a yearling steer, broke the backs of a few pigs, and smashed windows. The largest stone found was 25 cm around, as big as a baseball. One victim blamed the lightning for turning what was a full head of hair bald.

20

Father's Day

1919: When a tornado tore through Empress, AB, it blew apart a house and tossed a 10-kg box of nails into the air, hitting a child on the head and killing him. The family was living in a nearby railroad caboose while their house was being built. The storm smashed the caboose into a coulee and tore down telegraph wires, hampering communications for a long time.

21

Summer Solstice 07:28 EDT

2007: A weekend of 7 tornadoes hit southern Manitoba—the annual average is 9. In Whiteshell Provincial Park, winds and falling trees destroyed/blew away tents. After an hour of holding down their tents, 6 men and 4 women hid in a single-toilet outhouse for more than an hour. "The experience was nasty and smelly." Fortunately, the outhouse was well vented.

22

1913: At noon, 13 settlers gathered at the Crown Lands Office in Hearst, ON, to beat next day's rush filing claims for farms. They burned smudge fires to ward off mosquitoes. About 10 p.m., one of the most severe thunderstorms ever in the north struck. Lightning lit up the bush for miles. Thunder shook buildings. The small crowd huddled under tarpaulins and blankets; not one left the line.

23

1944: Two female golfers in Edmonton, AB, tired of waiting for clear skies so they donned bathing suits and splashed to the fairway. Over the past 2 weeks it had rained 11 out of 14 days: over 100 mm. They were likely the only people in the city who golfed that week. A journalist wrote: "They might have invented a brand new game of water golf."

24

St. Jean-Baptiste Day

Weather Quiz

How much greater is your risk of being killed by a tornado in a mobile home than in a permanent structure?

- 1) twice the risk
- 2) five times
- 3) 10 times
- 4) 20 times
- 5) 100 times

(Answer on inside back cover)

25

2008: An alleged shoplifter died after fleeing a Hamilton, ON, store. Employees pursued the man through several backyards before the chase ended in a residential neighbourhood. When apprehended, he was pronounced dead. Apparently, the hot, humid weather played a factor. Mid-afternoon humidex values reached 35 with an air temperature around 27°C.

26

Full Moon 

1919: A tornado travelled from Guernsey to Quill Lake, SK, killing 2 women when their separate houses blew to bits. At Guernsey, it destroyed a pool hall, curling rink, garages, barns, and blacksmith shop. At Quill Lake, 3 elevators disappeared and the Church of England building lay on its side. A barn housing a dog and a horse flew 30 m. The animals were uninjured.

27

1957: The tail end of Hurricane Audrey lashed Metro Toronto, ON, leaving washed-out roads, flooded cellars, stalled cars, and power blackouts. A 2-year-old boy drowned in Black Creek. Rain amounted to over 70 mm. Mud and silt remained in cellars and streets—deep enough to derail 2 streetcars. Police used sirens to warn residents in Highland Creek Valley.

28

2008: A forest fire fuelled by hot, dry winds bore down on rain-starved Stony Rapids and Stony Lake, SK, forcing more than 200 to flee. They included prisoners from a local RCMP detachment, elderly, and the sick. Police went door-to-door telling residents to gather pets and belongings. Fire crews, coping with gusty west winds, set up sprinklers on homes and buildings.

29

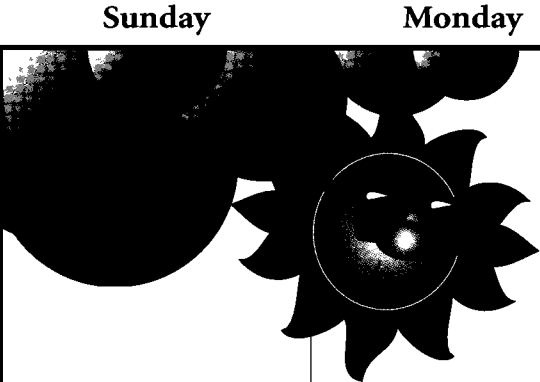
2008: A truck carrying about 20 million honeybees flipped near St. Leonard, NB. It was raining at the time. When it let up, firefighters sprayed a mist on the truck to tame the bees. Beekeepers eventually recovered 12 million angry honeybees. People on motorcycles or in convertibles were stung. The bees had been used to pollinate a blueberry crop in New Brunswick.

30

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JULY 2010

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28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1956: The summer's fiercest storm cut a swath of death and damage across Ontario, whipping up lakes crowded with holidayers, toppling trees, and disrupting power and phone services. At least 13 people died including 7 picnickers crushed to death when lightning and wind toppled a giant elm on their car near Keswick. On Lake Simcoe, wind-waves tossed boats up on the shore.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1904: A disastrous storm broke loose across southern Manitoba. It featured winds up to 90km/h, fearful crashes of thunder, vivid forked and sheet lightning, and an apparently perfect tornado. Lightning struck a train station, a drill hall, several houses and a disabled streetcar. Electric charges also hit telegraph wires.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>2008: Torrential rains couldn't stop the 400th anniversary ceremony to honour Samuel de Champlain, Quebec City's founder in 1608. A crowd gathered under umbrellas and ponchos for speeches. The mayor said it rained on this day in 1608. "I'm a great believer in historical authenticity, but it didn't need to go quite this far."</p> <p>3</p>
				Canada Day		
<p>1955: Hot, steamy weather gripped Toronto, ON, with humidex readings of 42. A mother of 10 children, all under 12, living in 3 suffocating rooms trooped her brood to a shelter for a bath. There was only one case of heat prostration reported. People slept on verandas, in backyards, and the CNE grounds. Others were in sleeping bags on the hard ground, soft sand, or the cargo area of station wagons.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1937: It was 45°C in Saskatchewan—the hottest ever in Canada. Starved grasshoppers were too weak to fly. The crushed insects covered railway tracks. Regina authorities worried over water quality and quantity as Wascana Lake shrank. Near Oxbow, farmers harvested old buffalo bones from a dried lake floor. At \$12 a tonne, it may have been their first decent harvest in years. [Ron Petrie, Regina <i>Leader Post</i>]</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1955: When the rain stopped, a farm wife from Dundalk, ON, opened the front door. Her husband and baby were close behind. Lightning struck a large tree and travelled along a clothesline to the house. The bolt hurled the three into the yard. The husband woke up in the mud, partly paralyzed. The baby sat up crying. And the wife/mother lay unconscious face down in the mud. The electrical charge changed the colour of the wash line from silver to copper.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>2006: A severe thunderstorm wreaked havoc across Calgary, AB. The 2-hour storm packed windshield-smashing hail and rain so intense it flooded many basements and blocked catch basins. Rainfall amounts exceeded 50 mm stranding drivers in intersections. Golf-ball size hail caused extensive damage to vehicles and buildings.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>2008: During a severe thunderstorm, lightning struck and killed a man in a Toronto, ON, park. He had taken shelter under a huge maple tree at Christie Pitts ballpark. The deadly bolt also shook nearby homes. The storm drenched the city with some 52 mm of rain within an hour. During the same period, Environment Canada detected 430 lightning strikes.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>The hottest day of the year typically falls around:</p> <p>1) 21 June 2) 4 July 3) 21 July 4) 1 August 5) 2 December</p> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p>9</p>	<p>2008: A tornado between Carlyle and Stoughton, SK, demolished buildings, sent roofs flying, snapped power poles, and forced a temporary evacuation amidst fears of a natural gas leak. In Yorkton, the roof of a local hardware store landed on new vehicles at a dealership. The storm picked up and moved only the heaviest sheets of plywood at the lumberyard.</p> <p>10</p>
<p>Last Quarter 🌑</p>		Aphelion 07:00 EDT			Nunavut Day	
<p>2008: A businessman from Shawinigan, QC, delivered a dozen truckloads of snow. His clients were playing a joke on friends or family, especially those who had spent winter in Florida. The "snow man" had kept the snow intact by covering it with straw and plastic. A load sold for \$75, plus transportation. Money went to charity.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>1864: Lightning struck a house near Fredericton, NB, and destroyed an occupied cradle. The baby wasn't injured, nor was anyone in the house, but a fine horse died. Lightning also struck a schoolhouse, descending among the children and knocking one of them from a seat. The lightning was so vivid and the flashes so incessant, the heavens appeared to be on fire.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>1941: Five consecutive days of 30°C temperatures occurred at Victoria, BC, the highest at 36.1°C. Thousands of Victorians moved outdoors fanning themselves on front porches or sitting in gardens until long after dark. Hundreds of others sat on the beach. Every door and window was wide open; flies swarmed into unscreened houses. Even that was preferable to the stifling heat.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1885: St. Thomas, ON, experienced one of its most fierce electric storms in history. One lightning flash entered a local newspaper office, knocking the telephone out of order and stunning a reporter. Another flash came into a house and ran into the cellar where only 2 out of 40 pots of preserves were left whole.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>2008: Tornado-hail weather in Taber, AB, shredded half the prized corn crop worth millions of dollars. A wind gust peaked at 215 km/h prior to a communication tower crumpling outside of Seven Persons. It was a non-standard observing site so is not considered a Canadian record. The highest gust record in the national archives since 1953 was 193 km/h at Cape St James, BC, and St John's, NL.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1852: A storm raced across central New Brunswick tearing up young trees by the roots and severely damaging gardens. Torrential rains swelled the river above Fredericton. It was deemed a timely blessing, as thousands of felled logs were lying high and dry due to low water levels from lack of rain. Mill owners were beginning to despair for want of logs.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>2006: When temperatures hit 31°C and the humidex 41, Ottawa Public Health issued its first summer heat warning. Jerome, a 1-year-old dromedary camel owned by Parc Safari in Hemmingford, QC, was supposed to make the media rounds in Ottawa as a zoo promotion. His handlers postponed the trip: a 3-hour drive in a trailer without air-conditioning.</p> <p>17</p>

1961: A “baby twister” peeled away some roofing at Atikokan General Hospital, ON, just as easily as one might strip the skin from a banana. One patient saw the approach of a funnel cloud through her room window as the torrential rainstorm hit. Nurses moved her to another room because of water seepage through the ceiling. More than 33 mm of rain fell.

18

First Quarter 

2008: Over a 6-week period, Victoria, BC, recorded a paltry 0.6 mm of rain. Gardeners groaned but hikers thrilled at trekking the usually mucky Cape Scott Trail. Tofino had water restrictions. Conditions here were even drier than 2 years ago when the town trucked in water. The fire hazard was high to extreme. Luckily temperatures hovered near seasonal averages. Otherwise forests might have been ablaze.

19

2008: In Yellowknife, NT, an intense 20-minute storm dumped enough hail and rain to block drains and flood streets and grounds in 1 m of water. At the storm's peak, residents canoed across streets. Hail forced construction workers to flee for cover. At one worksite, water completely washed out a day's worth of road work and \$10,000 of concrete curbs.

20

2008: Afternoon temperatures in Iqaluit, NU, ranged from 21° to 27°C this week. The previous all-time high here was 26.1°C on July 29, 2003, with records covering 62 years. Today, the temperature hit 26.8°C, some 15 degrees above normal. At night, minimum temperature dipped to 12.6°C with humidex value of 27—both records. Iqaluit was host to an international conference on climate change at the time.

21

2008: Tropical Storm Cristobal was Atlantic Canada's first major tropical system of the season. As it approached the Maritimes, it recorded sustained winds near 110 km/h. The storm soaked southern Nova Scotia, spilling a month's worth of rain in less than 24 hours on some coastal sites. Rains flooded basements, washed out roads, and caused hydroplaning on highways.

22

2008: Cyclone-shaped waterspouts formed in the St. Lawrence River. Eyewitnesses spotted funnel clouds and a second waterspout 70 km northeast of Montreal, QC. Waterspout winds rarely exceed 90 km/h but can capsize watercraft and damage waterfront properties. Although spouts were all the buzz, 90 km/h winds, hail and heavy rain, and a F0 tornado near Lanoraie did more damage.

23

2008: Members of 3 generations of an Inuvik family, on their way to a traditional beluga whale harvest on the Beaufort Sea coast, perished after their 6-m aluminum boat capsized in rough waters in the Mackenzie River. Of the 5 family members, only a teenage boy survived. Rescuers found him on the eastern shore of the channel 48 hours later.

24

2008: A farmer who lost a herd of cattle during a sudden storm last winter felt spring flooding near Conception Bay, NL, caused their deaths. While moving 19 cows and bulls, a blizzard swept in. He spent weeks searching for the cattle. He figured the herd survived until spring thaw caused flooding in a low-lying area where the cattle were trapped. Two anglers found the 19 carcasses.

25

2008: Scientists reported a dramatic loss of nearly ¼ of the massive, ancient ice shelves on Ellesmere Island. The 70-m thick ice that covered 9,000 sq km a century ago is now down to 1,000, underscoring the rapidity and irreversibility of changes in the North. A 4-sq-km chunk also broke off Ward Hunt Ice Shelf—the largest remaining ice shelf in the Arctic.

26

1953: A lightning bolt blasted the Winnipeg Electric Co. substation at Transcona, MB, melting the coils and pipes after creating a huge arc between building and transformer. The flash lit up the sky for miles. The sub-station lay in shambles of blackened, high-voltage electrical equipment. Accompanying rains turned nearby market gardens into a morass.

27

2008: Farmers recently spread fertilizer on cropland east of Winnipeg, MB. Persistent easterly winds made manure aroma waft through the city streets. An atmospheric inversion—in which the temperature increases instead of decreasing with height—trapped the smell close to the ground. Normally, the lowest kilometre of air is very well mixed.

28

1902: A cloudburst flooded the Hunker and Dominion creeks, YK. Standing water was an average 3 m deep. The wall of rushing water filled the valley, carrying off sluice boxes and flumes, filling open cuts, and submerging machinery and equipment. Losses were assessed at many thousands of dollars. Men worked waist deep in water to salvage belongings.

29

2008: Flash floods in Gambo, NL, triggered by a torrential downpour of 70 mm in 9 hours, prompted the evacuation of dozens of families. Rescuers used canoes and heavy equipment to get around. Some homes had half a metre of water in them. Byroads became impassable in gumbo-like mud. The mayor reported it would cost millions of dollars to repair flood-damaged infrastructure.

30

2008: Park officials declared Auyuittuq National Park on Baffin Island off limits for fear Crater Lake would catastrophically drain into the nearby valley. Thawing permafrost, melting glacier, and flash floods from record amounts of rain had already forced out 21 tourists from the wilderness reserve. Weeks of unusual warmth began destabilizing the shoreline around the lake.

31

Full Moon 

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AUGUST 2010

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>2007: A rare microburst packing winds between 120 and 150 km/h struck Kashechewan, ON. Roofs flew and at least 1 transmission tower crumpled. Shingles from one roof were embedded in the side of a neighbour's house. The wind moved another house about 3 m. The metal frame of a radio tower looked like a pretzel.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2008: Storm cells fed by humid, unstable air dumped large amounts of rain on northwest New Brunswick and eastern Quebec: 150 mm in less than 48 hours, with intensities of 60 mm in 1 hour—some broke 100-year records. A boy and his mother died when her car was swept into Lac Long. Currents washed away bridges, rail lines, and chunks of more than 50 roads and cottages.</p> <p>2</p> <p>Civic Holiday</p>	<p>1931: Lightning struck a house near Timmins, ON, twice in minutes. The first strike hit the kitchen tearing a gaping hole in the roof and slashing the linoleum. When a mother and son ran to the kitchen to see the commotion, a second bolt struck the front of the house. Although erratic with multiple hits, lightning failed to do any material damage to the furniture.</p> <p>3</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1845: A storm described as a hurricane passed over a house in Ste-Genève, QC, where 5 young men were staying. Two occupants ran to the garret to shut the window when they were struck dead. A second lightning charge passed downstairs, killing another man and severely injuring the remaining 2—one succumbed later. (<i>Montreal Herald</i>)</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1846: Near River John in Pictou, NS, lightning entered a shoemaker's shop by a stovepipe, shattering the stove. It tore up part of the floor, threw up ceiling boards, and blew out the windows without injuring anyone. The next day lightning in East River, NS, killed a man, a boy, and a dog. It also struck a woman, rendering her insensible for a time.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1902: Without warning, a violent thunderstorm broke over Dawson, YT. Hailstones the size of marbles fell with startling rapidity resembling a blinding snowstorm. The din of the hail falling on metallic-roofed buildings made it impossible to hear anything. Court proceedings halted for several minutes. Loud peals of thunder added to the cacophony.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>2003: Very humid air helped ignite a mini-cloud of wood, coal, and crop dust, leading to a violent explosion in the Halifax harbour. The force punched a hole through the side of a grain elevator forcing hundreds of people from nearby homes. The explosion also tore sheet metal from the grain elevator and left a pungent smell and smoke hovering over the waterfront.</p> <p>7</p>
<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>8</p> <p>The number of asthma patients admitted to hospital is greatest on days with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) snow 2) rain 3) thunderstorms 4) high humidity 5) extreme wind chill <p>(See answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p>2008: With a soaking of 26.2 mm today, Toronto, ON, officially recorded its wettest summer on record: 354.2 mm of rain at Pearson Airport from 1 June to 9 August. And there were still 3 weeks to go! It had rained 41 of the past 71 days. But Toronto had only 9 smog days, compared to 24 the previous summer. The big smoke became the big wet.</p> <p>9</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1863: Intense rainfall drenched Yarmouth, NS. At one house, lightning struck the family's eldest daughter leaving her senseless on the floor. At Deerfield, lightning entered and damaged the First Baptist meeting house. Parishioners felt it providential that it took place on Monday, instead of the previous day, when the house had been nearly filled.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1843: At Cherry Valley, PE, lightning struck a woman dead on the spot about 3:00 p.m. The building was also "injured": the rafters over the victim's head, and beams below her feet were shattered to pieces. The victim was kneading dough in the kitchen at the time. At the inquest held in the damaged house, the coroner deemed it an "accidental death."</p> <p>11</p> <p>First Day of Ramadan at Sundown</p>	<p>2003: Near Wabamun Lake, AB, a brief but powerful storm featuring green-turquoise skies and packing tornadic winds, golf-ball size hail, and sheets of rain damaged several buildings and caused some personal injuries to people at the lake resort/golf course. Shattered tree fragments littered the grounds. Flying debris smashed clubhouse windows and doors.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>1956: On a cottage at Chandos Lake, near Peterborough, ON, lightning struck a Florida tourist. She was washing dishes while her husband and son were on the veranda. A bolt of lightning tore into the side of the frame cottage after hitting a pine tree and splitting a rock. When the man and boy rushed to the kitchen, the woman fell dead at their feet.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>2007: Almost a week after a windstorm boasting 100 km/h winds lobster fishers in Northumberland Strait were still reeling from the storm's effects. Not only did the storm damage their equipment, officials had to postpone start of fishing season: the storm had churned up the bottom of the fishing grounds, scattering inshore lobster and discouraging them from feeding.</p> <p>14</p>
<p>1902: Tall story or truth? A horse with a Yukon mining exploration party drank from a copper-laced pool. After a sudden storm, all that was left where the horse once stood was a charred pile of cloth. One miner speculated that the horse was full of copper and that at the minute lightning struck, he walked near some copper. Lightning mistook him for a lightning rod and fried him.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>2008: Half of Winnipeg, MB's, wading pools should have been closed for the season, but the city reconsidered with summer's first hot day. Winnipeg Airport hit 30.2°C—the latest date for a 30° mark since records began in the city in 1872. The previous latest date for such a hot day was 24 July, in 1882 and 1927. The average date for reaching 30°C is around 4 June.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>2007: In Saskatoon, SK, a prolonged rain event over 2 days dropped in excess of 100 mm of rain. The deluge forced countless families to evacuate. Emergency crews pumped flooded basements and submerged intersections. Residents were urged to cut back on water consumption. Water jets shot up 2 m high from manholes.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>2008: Scorching heat pushed the mercury to a record high of 35.6°C at Edmonton International Airport, AB, eclipsing the previous all-time daily high of 35.3°C set on 5 August 1998. Electricity consumption soared, hitting an all-time high. Only 1 person was hospitalized with heat exhaustion as people heeded warnings to wear hats, stay out of the sun, and keep hydrated.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>1837: A storm in Shediac, NB, was described as one of the most destructive ever. The violence of wind, hail, and rain destroyed almost everything in its wake. Some hailstones, 3 cm in diameter, were oddly flat and square, and lay 10 cm deep on the ground. Growers anticipating a plentiful harvest, after a long series of half-starvation years, were now wholly destitute.</p> <p>19</p>	<p>1970: An F3 tornado struck Sudbury and Lively, ON, killing 6 people and injuring 200. It caused an estimated \$17 million in damage to homes, hydro and telephone lines, and to the Inco smelter at Copper Cliff. In Field, ON, a family was eating breakfast when the tornado picked up their house and dropped it 10 m away. Incredibly, someone spotted a grand piano in Ramsey Lake.</p> <p>20</p>	<p>1894: A tragic yachting accident happened near the harbour in Saint John, NB. A stiff breeze suddenly sprang up along with rain and hail. Before orders could be given to bring in the full sails of the <i>Primrose</i> it went on her beam end. It then plunged bow first, filled with water, and sank, drowning 8 crew. The same squall drowned 3 sailors on the Îles de la Madeleine, QC.</p> <p>21</p>

1938: A tornado struck Nolalu, ON, before crossing the international border into Minnesota. In Canada, the twister levelled farm buildings and killed cattle. Winds ripped a house to pieces, blew down the garage, rolled an automobile over 5 times, and scattered personal belongings far and wide. The next morning, some of the family's clothes were recovered 10 km east of their property.

22

1902: A horrific hailstorm near Wetaskiwin, AB, devastated the crop, battering it into the ground so that it couldn't even be raked up for feed. The large hailstones and terrific winds unroofed buildings. Teams of horses ran away and wild and domestic chickens and ducks perished by the thousands. The hailstones were so large that 2 days later many of them had not entirely melted.

23

1927: A storm struck Lunenburg, NS. The fast-moving system packed winds above 150 km/h and churned up waves to 20 m. The August Gale of 1927 was thought to be a Category 2 hurricane. With the loss of 190 mariners, it was the second deadliest hurricane in Canada's recorded history. The storm wiped out almost the entire male lines of some fishing families along the south shore of Nova Scotia.

24

Full Moon ○

1910: Fierce winds lashed towns on Lake Timiskaming, ON. They blew out windowpanes, rocked light summer homes, and whipped up the lake. A heavy motor launch was pushed from anchor 1 km out in the lake. At Cobalt, fence posts were tossed like spears, and a ladder was hurled through a large plate window glass at a local drug store.

25

2008: A small tornado touched down at a golf course near Spruce Home, SK, damaging equipment sheds and the clubhouse roof. The twister took down 26 nearby power poles with lines, blew a greenhouse across a yard, and tossed a full 200-litre water barrel as if it were empty. One eyewitness said the twister lifted a lumber office up and dropped it back down.

26

2008: It was calm at Baie Verte, NL, when some local fishers took advantage of the squid in the bay to do some jigging. Suddenly a wickedly strong wind arose leaving boaters scrambling for shelter. It was eerie, like something out of a horror movie. Tables and tents blew away on land. The fire department extinguished a fire when winds blew trees onto power lines.

27

1900: The worst storm ever witnessed in Souris, MB, lifted the town rink off its foundation and carried it about 10 m. It demolished another large skating and curling rink and turned the grandstand upside down. The tower of the Roman Catholic Church and the front of a brick store were also blown down. Houses were now short of chimneys. Hardly a stook of grain was left standing.

28

1933: A breeze on Lake Winnipeg, MB, soon developed into a fierce gale. Rumours had it that the schooner "Breeze" had capsized. Search parties could not locate the wreckage, made more difficult by poor visibility caused by dense smoke clouds from forest fires. Later 2 bodies and the sailboat's wreckage were found near Elk Island.

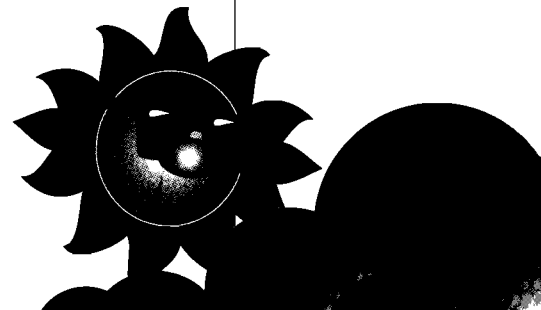
29

2008: A slow-moving, low pressure system brought copious amounts of rain to parts of southern Manitoba. The heaviest amounts occurred from Dauphin through Gypsumville to Berens River where upwards of 100 mm fell. Overland flooding swamped fields, swelled ditches, and overtopped roads. More September rains were the final straw for cattle producers who, unable to afford hay, began liquidating their herds.

30

2008: Several dozen people were enjoying a bonfire on Middle Cove beach in eastern Newfoundland around 8:30 p.m. when a giant rogue wave out of nowhere rolled them over. People ran for higher ground and strangers helped each other from being carried out to sea. There were no serious injuries or drownings.

31



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31

SEPTEMBER 2010

Sunday

Monday

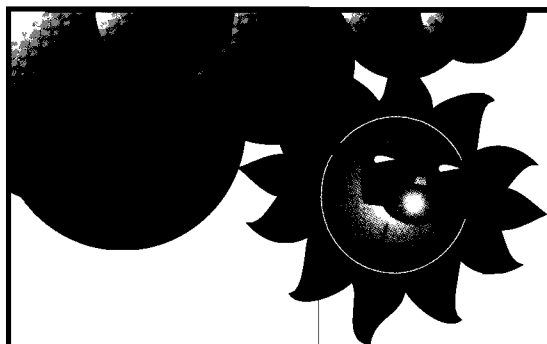
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1951: Flashes of lightning in Windsor, ON, sent a frightened girl to her parent's bedroom. One spectacular charge tossed her into the air and a streak of flames shot from her hair, rendering her semi-conscious. The odour of burned hair remained strong after 16 hours. The girl's only injuries, miraculously, were entry burns on top of her head and where the charge exited.

1

1970: Near Portland, in eastern Ontario, a bolt of lightning struck and instantly killed 2 hunting dogs. It also set a barn on fire, burning alive several farm animals. At Harlem, lightning started a fire, completely destroying a barn with ducks, rabbits, and 600 bales of hay.

2

1951: About 10 km southwest of Pleasant Valley, SK, a twister emerged from a storm cloud and tore through a farmyard, lifting a garage above the treetops and smashing it to the ground. The whirling air column travelled for about 2 km, picking up a barley swath before raining it down a distance away.

3

1926: While 2 men drove between Entwistle and Evansburg, AB, lightning struck their car, shattering the steering gear and turning the auto upside down. Both men escaped serious injury. Water levels on the already swollen Pembina River rose 3 m above normal. With 75 mm of rain in 1 week, farmers feared that grain would start sprouting in the stocks.

4

Last Quarter ☾

2008: Rains and grey skies in eastern Canada made it the worst year ever for hay growers. In Ontario the first crop came in mid-August or later. It had never been so late or of such poor quality. In Cape Breton, production was down 50 to 80%. RCMP said the poor weather also affected the marijuana crop, especially in Kent County, NS, where growing operations are often hidden in the region's vast forests.

5

2008: For most Maritimers, Hurricane Hanna, a killer in Haiti, was more a nuisance, spoiling Labour Day weekend. In Saint John, NB, though, 145 mm of rain fell over 14 hours from the 5 to 7 September. The 7th was the wettest September day on record, approaching a once-in-a-100-year event. Downtown streets were waist-deep in water. Farmers could not use heavy machinery without damaging fields already saturated by August rains.

6

Labour Day

1931: Heat-wave stories of frying eggs on a hot sidewalk were nothing compared to what happened in some cornfields near Woodstock, ON. With temperatures between 30 and 35°C for 5 straight days, farm labourers found, upon husking corn, that kernels on some cobs had popped, and were white, just as if they had been heated in a corn popper.

7

1910: Fierce winds from an intense fall storm churned up the waters of Lake Temiscaming in northeastern Ontario. The storm swamped motorboats, prompting frightened sailors to hurry back ashore. Lowering clouds seemed to scrape the lake as they raced along. Placid waters became great swells that gradually crashed against the shore. No fatalities but several close calls.

8

New Moon ●

Weather Quiz
How long would it take to melt a 4.5 kg block of ice on a sidewalk during a sunny day with maximum temperatures around 35°C and high humidity?

9

- 1) 1 hour
- 2) almost 4 hours
- 3) 30 minutes
- 4) 6 hours
- 5) 1 day

(Answer on inside back cover)

Rosh Hashanah

1910: The first airplane test flight in British Columbia took place in secrecy near Mount Tolmie. Weather was ideal: dry, clear skies, and a comfortable high temperature of 18.3°C. The 40-hp twin plane got 6 m off the ground and flew for about 70 m before descending. The high impact landing fractured the riding wheels, delaying further flights for a day or two.

10

2008: At the International Peace Garden south of Brandon, MB, a crowd assembled to mark the 7th anniversary of 9/11. A thick fog engulfed the memorial and low ceilings kept a Black Hawk helicopter grounded in Bismarck, ND. Around 12:30 p.m., the fog lifted and rays of sunshine broke through, illuminating the Peace Tower. [The Winnipeg Free Press]

11

1953: Damaging storms blasted Ontario. In Toronto, a driving rainstorm destroyed the CNE blimp. At Toronto Island Airport, where the blimp was parked, winds punctured its outer covering and felled the 7-m high steel mooring mast. The shredded remnants tumbled across the tarmac dragging the heavy gondola. Its lone occupant received head and back injuries.

12

1924: The village of Baie-Saint-Paul, QC, looked as if an earthquake had struck. Intense rains flooded the region. Fast-flowing waters took out a bridge under construction on the Rivière du Gouffre. Five other nearby bridges were also demolished. A father of 14 children, upon learning of the destruction of his family's home, suffered a fatal heart attack.

13

1955: When lightning struck her father's barn near Nobleton, ON, a teenage girl raced into the barn and drove out the expensive tractor. Then she rolled a barrel full of gasoline away from the flames, and on a third trip tossed 300 chickens out a window before flames drove her out. Only 6 pigs and a few chickens died. The fire destroyed the barn, 2,000 bushels of grain, and 50 tonnes of hay.

14

1944: Opening ceremonies of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration meeting in Montreal, QC, were delayed for 3 days when 350 delegates from the U.S. and outside North America failed to arrive. A special train carrying the delegates was 12 hours late because of damage caused by a hurricane along the eastern seaboard.

15

1998: A big cougar was discovered wandering inside a downtown building in Victoria, BC. An employee managed to trap the malnourished, 3-year-old cat. It was the sixth cougar sighting in Victoria in the past 3 days. The extremely dry summer had made it difficult for animals to find enough food in the wild.

16

1965: Winds gusting close to 160 km/h battered Newfoundland, inflicting widespread destruction, especially in St. John's. Vegetation littered streets. Port traffic was tied up as tugs returned boats to their moorings. Winds flattened a local carnival and ripped away a section of grandstand. Officials evacuated students when a school roof began lifting.

17

1903: Over 40 mm of rain curtailed mining operations around Dominion Creek, YK. Earlier there had been no water and no work. When rains did come, they created a tidal wave sweeping away wheelbarrows, packsaddles, and grub, and flooding mines. The rain damaged the Caribou Hotel's roof, in spite of last summer's efforts to waterproof it. One customer slept with an umbrella over his head.

18

1910: During an intense noon-hour storm, the second storey of a building being erected in Cochrane, ON, blew to the ground, killing 1 worker and injuring several others. The wind literally lifted the upper storey like a balloon. The foreman, climbing down a ladder at the time, felt the building going. He fell but escaped with only a few bruises.

19

1957: When 50 mm of rain fell in Toronto, ON, cellars and streets flooded. On Queen Street, a manhole cover blew sky high and water spurted 2 m. Water seeped into telephone cables, cutting service to thousands. In one east-end neighbourhood, sewer water poured into the basements of 5 houses. Neighbours formed a bucket brigade but hours after the storm more than 1 m of water remained.

20

1955: A snowstorm swept across the western prairies, halting Operation Lifesaver: a civil defence exercise to test community readiness in disasters in southern Alberta. More than 30,000 residents were to evacuate; the largest ever planned in the Western world. Potential evacuees stayed home, and almost every escape route in was impassable. Observation aircraft couldn't even get off the ground.

21

1999: Ducks Unlimited Canada estimated a record-breaking 105 million birds would migrate this year—more than they have ever counted since 1950. The previous record was 92 million in 1997. Lots of rain in the prairie pothole region across North America explained the high numbers. The best time to look for migrating waterfowl is when winds from the north start kicking in and the weather turns cold.

22

Autumn Equinox 23:09 EDT

1900: It rained all day at White Fish Lake reserve and Lac La Biche, AB. Toward evening the temperature fell and soon nearly 30 cm of snow appeared. The wind abated but not the snow and cold. Snowdrifts were too deep for man or beast to wade through. Four days later, the snow was gone and the surviving black flies were out again. Some Albertans wondered what latitude they were living in!

23

Full Moon 

1907: During a thunderstorm, lightning struck a small barn used as a sheep shed near Massawippi, QC. Forty tonnes of hay went up in flames, as did a mowing machine, horse-rakes, a buggy, and 2 sleighs. In Compton, lightning travelled along telegraph wires, causing 2 fires. Had the station agent been at his telegraph key he surely would have been electrocuted.

24

1921: In Sault Ste. Marie, ON, the strongest windstorm in years left 1 ship aground. A boom broke at the Soo locks, releasing thousands of logs into the locks. Winds practically blew the water out of the river. Levels fell nearly 1 m in a few hours. Pulpwood and almost 40,000 cords of wood clogged the St. Marys River for about 8 km above the locks.

25

2007: The day's record-breaking temperature was such a sizzle that even the ducks in a Halifax park took refuge in the shade. People strolled in the Public Garden with cool drinks and ice cream. The temperature peaked at 30.5°C shattering the previous record of 23°C in 2003. Kentville was the hot spot in Nova Scotia at 32°C: astonishing warmth for autumn.

26

2007: Fredericton, NB's chief forester warned that the unusually dry summer would irreparably damage many city trees, causing roots to weaken and die. The city received just 140 mm of rain this summer, more than 120 mm below normal. The forester asked residents to water thirsty trees. Ensuring trees have mulch rather than grass at their base can help preserve them, he said.

27

2008: Tropical Storm Kyle was a marginal hurricane as it hit north of Yarmouth, NS, and east of Saint John, NB. Gaspé Peninsula and Quebec's Lower North Shore received significant rainfall. Relatively cool 15°C waters in the Atlantic Ocean blunted the storm's impact. Kyle was well publicized, arriving on the 5th anniversary of the infamous Hurricane Juan. This time Maritimers were ready.

28

2007: New Brunswick Natural Resources reported a better-than-average moose hunt in 2007. Light snowfalls and warmer-than-normal temperatures helped hunters enjoy their second-most successful harvest on record. Roughly 2/3 of the province's licensed hunters bagged a moose. A big-game wildlife biologist credited the success to the good weather during the moose-mating season.

29



Last Quarter 

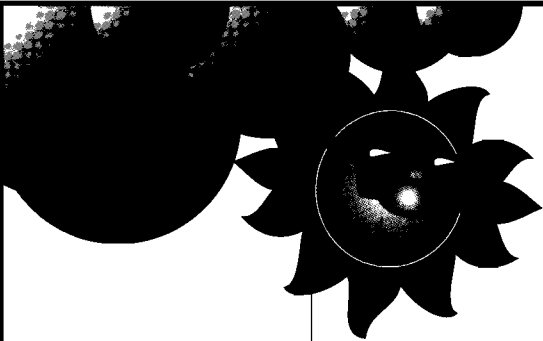
2008: The 2008 Arctic sea ice minimum was the second lowest since satellite records began. However, because the ice was thinner in 2008 (less than 1-m thick in places), overall ice volumes were lower than those in any other year. That the ice continued to vanish, following the coldest winter in 8 years, is remarkable. Further, the rate of sea ice melt was the greatest ever.

30

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OCTOBER 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1920: A storm bearing 120 km/h winds hit Quebec City, QC, inflicting extensive damage. Among downed services were streetcars, telephones, and electricity. The winds ripped roofs off homes and damaged the tops of large buildings and churches. Everywhere streets were blocked by rubble and downed power lines. Firefighters were busy extinguishing wind-driven blazes.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>In eastern North America, what is the rainiest day of the week?</p> <p>1) Saturday 2) Sunday 3) Monday 4) Tuesday 5) Thursday</p> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>
<p>1959: A TCA Viscount airplane hit the mud 500 m short of its Toronto runway just missing a hydro transformer; 40 people escaped a flaming death by less than 1 m. The airplane bounced twice and skittered across Malton Road before smashing into a fence. It might have been caught in a downdraft during a severe thunderstorm. Ironically, the soggy ground likely prevented a major tragedy.</p>	<p>1913: Following an intense 2-day rainfall of 60 mm, water lay knee-deep on the streets of Thunder Bay, ON. It filled ditches to the brim and washed out roadbeds along train tracks. Nearby residents placed planks on blocks to enable them to reach their homes or donned knee boots to wade through the mud and water.</p>	<p>2005: Five days ago Manitobans were sweltering in 27°C. Today, they were buried in snow. Areas south of Brandon were the hardest hit. Pilot Mound took the brunt of the system with almost 45 cm of snow. At the Manitoba legislature, the premier and several school children assembled for a walk to promote physical activity but the weather forced them to exercise inside.</p>	<p>2007: A federal election lawn sign from a Newfoundland-Labrador candidate appeared on the Ireland coast after apparently spending more than 3 years bobbing across the Atlantic—3,500 km. An Irishman out for a stroll found the unsinkable sign. He e-mailed: “Hi, I found one of your campaign boards ... Just so you know, you have a fine of 500 euros in the Republic of Ireland for littering the beach.”</p>	<p>1951: Wind and water lashed the shores of Manitoulin Island, ON. Strong northeast winds washed waves over punts and other small craft, sinking many of them and pounding others on the rocks. Many hunters found their favourite wood roads only navigable by boat or hip waders. The number of partridge taken was not as high as it might have been.</p>	<p>1939: Intense lightning, unusual for this time of year in northern Ontario, struck a Haileybury substation, causing a small fire. Lightning also hit several farm buildings reducing them, and the year’s crops, to ashes. At another farm, a strike instantly killed a Holstein bull in its stall. The charge hit the bull on the head but singed the entire length of its body. Nothing else in the stable was touched.</p>	<p>2008: Go fishing or stay on shore? For the past 2 weeks in the Bay of Fundy, lobster fishers were only able to go out every 3 days or so because of strong, persistent winds. Each postponed day increases the risk taken by fishers to make up lost time. Further, when winds churn up the seabed, lobsters don’t feed until the water settles down.</p>
<p>1934: The Bella Coola River in BC was in heavy flood, isolating nearby communities; 127 mm of rain in 2 days had damaged bridges and washed out roads. Canoes were the only means of conveyance to Bella Coola. Natives and government officials paddled 4 large war canoes in order to move families to higher ground and supply feed to stranded animals.</p>	<p>2007: On a miserably wet, foggy, cool Ottawa day, Prince Edward attended a ceremony marking the 150th anniversary of the royal decree making Ottawa the nation’s capital. He poked fun at Canadian weather. “I wish you the very best of luck with all the events you’re planning [this year]. If it’s like this in October, I wonder what you’re going to be doing in December.”</p>	<p>2008: Saskatchewanians dug out from 17 cm of wet, slushy snow this Thanksgiving weekend. In Regina, a SUV slipped off the road and into Wascana Lake. The driver fled from the frigid water through the driver’s window and swam to shore. Thanksgiving snows were reminiscent of the famous holiday storm in 1998 when parts of the province were buried in 25 to 70 cm of snow.</p>	<p>1949: From Kirkland Lake, ON, to as far south as Buffalo, NY, a blinding, bluish white flash lit up the sky at midnight. Shaped somewhat like a giant question mark, it remained very bright for about half a minute. It was said one could have read a newspaper by its remarkable brilliance. Astronomers speculated that it was “a very large fireball—or meteor” that likely landed in Georgian Bay.</p>	<p>2008: In spite of pretty nice weather right across the country, voter turnout in the federal election was disappointing—just 58% of eligible voters. Many voters in Clyde River, NU, arrived by snowmobile in blizzard-like weather to cast ballots. Some northern Ontario residents voted by lantern light after high gusty winds over 90 km/h knocked out power.</p>	<p>1954: Hurricane Hazel killed 81 people and left 1,896 families homeless in the Toronto, ON, area. A newspaper carrier recalled the event more than 50 years later. It was his first day on the job. He completed his deliveries and on the next day (Saturday) he made his round of collections. One customer refused to pay saying his paper was wet on the 15th. The boy told him to get his newspaper elsewhere from now on.</p>	<p>1930: A tempest in southern Saskatchewan blew sand, soil, and snow into a swirling mixture. Train crews vainly battled the storm; snowploughs could not penetrate the 5-m drifts. Five Regina men huddling in a stalled car perished less than 100 m from a farmhouse. At Cabri, 2 salesmen stuck in a snowdrift on a level crossing did not see an approaching train. They were thrown 30 m and injured.</p>

1843: Across New Brunswick, incessant rain fell over a couple of weeks, accompanied by strong wind squalls. Waters in the harbour were coloured by the light clay debris far outside the wharves. Newspaper editors opined that removing debris earlier would have prevented damage. "Heavy expenses are often occasioned because small evils are allowed to accumulate, and to form great annoyances." [*The Gleaner*]

17

2007: The remnants of Tropical Storm Lingling battered Vancouver Island's south coast and the BC Lower Mainland. High winds caused scattered power outages and halted ferry runs. More than 10,000 BC Hydro customers lost power. Overall, the storm did not live up to the warning—winds fell short of the forecasted 90 km/h strength and about 30 mm of rain fell.

18

1762: Settlers in parts of southern Ontario spent the day in nearly total darkness. French settlers and aboriginal peoples blamed the freakish dark days and the dirty, sulphur-smelling rain on the English having brought it with them when they arrived. Others theorized that the freak dark days resulted from forest fires, a volcanic eruption, or subterranean fires.

19

1905: A violent storm swept over Lakes Huron, Michigan, and Erie, sinking 11 vessels and damaging 15. Scores of lives were lost. The steamer *Mautene* struck a rock 30 km west of Erie, PA, and was pounded by the terrific seas before breaking-up. The waves ran so high that it was impossible to launch a lifeboat. One seaman swam to shore and rigged a line to a breached buoy; the crew made it to shore.

20

1907: A fierce blizzard blew relentlessly across Nova Scotia. Winds pushed a massive ore crane at North Sydney toward the end of the pier, but it stopped at a turn in the rail track, leaving part of the crane protruding over the pier only 15m from the pounding surf. Workmen scrambled for their lives. Had the structure not stopped, it would have gone to the bottom with every man aboard.

21

1943: A trapper from Ilford, MB, was so determined to join the army immediately that he travelled 40 km on foot through a blinding snowstorm to reach a railway station where he caught a train to Winnipeg.

22

Full Moon 

2003: Officials reluctantly cancelled an NBA exhibition game in St. John's, NL, an hour before tip-off between the Toronto Raptors and the Cleveland Cavaliers because the wood floor was too wet. Unusually high humidity, warm (15°C) and foggy weather, and hockey ice beneath the floor made the court too slick to play on. An angry crowd of 8,000 fans booed lustily.

23

1846: Lightning struck the Episcopal Church on Butler's Hill in Yarmouth, NS, setting the steeple on fire. A huge cloud had settled over the town. It was so dark that people used candles at noon.

24

2008: Distracted by strong crosswinds on an airport landing at Flin Flon, MB, a pilot set his airplane down without lowering the wheels. The airplane belly landed on the runway and slid until coming to a stop. The airplane suffered major damage but the pilot/owner and passenger were uninjured. Weather conditions were near perfect: 8.6°C, cloudy, northwest winds at 15 km/h with visibility 24 km.

25

1994: A rare tornado at 4:30 a.m. in Prince George, BC, caused nearly \$1 M damage. Striking only 3 blocks from the centre of the city, and carving a path 4 km long, the tornado snapped trees and damaged buildings, vehicles, fences, and hydro lines.

26

1918: The CPR steamship en route to Vancouver from Skagway, AK, ran aground on Vanderbilt Reef in a snowstorm. Bad weather prevented rescue. The situation did not appear threatening but the worsening storm drove the ship into deep water, ripping open the bottom. All 268 passengers and 75 crew drowned or suffocated in fuel oil—the worst marine disaster on the Pacific coast. Only a dog survived.

27

2008: A pre-Halloween snowstorm fell across southern Ontario. Brockville got 18 cm and London 11 cm. Winds gusted up to 70 km/h. Because trees still had most of their leaves, overloaded branches broke and took down power lines. Snow-blower inventory throughout Ottawa was low because of last year's near-record snowfall. One Nepean store began selling snow blowers in August.

28

2008: After a snowstorm pounded the area near Kemptville, ON, several exotic animals escaped when a tree fell and breached the fence around their pens. All animals were captured except for Wendell, the wallaby. His handlers said the chunky animal could survive the cold. Sightings had him 80 km away in Athens, ON, and even in Ottawa. Sadly, 2 weeks later, Wendell was found dead in a field 2 km from his zoo.

29

1918: A second Pacific Coast marine disaster in 1 week occurred when the *SS Galliano* went down during a raging storm. Only 3 bodies, a skylight, and a life belt were found. By a curious freak of fate the *Galliano's* distress signal was picked up by the wireless operator's brother—an operator at the Triangle Island station. The toll of 373 lives in 1 week made it the largest loss of life at one time on the Pacific coast.

30

31 Halloween

Last Quarter 

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NOVEMBER 2010

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	<p>1926: Severe weather underway across northern Ontario brought slushy snow, freezing rain, and strong winds. The storm isolated several towns south of Sudbury. Added wind-loading felled dozens of telegraph poles and miles of lines encrusted with ice. The greatest trouble was between Pickerel and Mactier. Work gangs laboured for days to unscramble tangled wires.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1939: A 79-year-old man looking for a bathroom accidentally locked himself out of the hospital at Trochu, AB. It was -9°C in a blizzard. Dressed in pyjamas and slippers, he wandered around the hospital only to find all doors locked. He headed for his doctor's house some distance away and arrived there exhausted and chilled. Critically ill for days, he slowly recovered.</p> <p>2</p> <p>All Saints' Day</p>	<p>2007: Tropical Storm Noel was huge and vigorous. Its centre moved into Canada near Yarmouth, NS. Fortunately, the storm arrived during the low monthly tide cycle, minimizing storm surges. Across Atlantic Canada powerful winds downed thousands of leafless trees, scattered fences, and felled hydro lines. At one point, almost 200,000 homes and businesses had no electricity. Wind and wave action hurled rocks and smashed fishing sheds.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>2007: Police followed tire tracks to a dugout near Halkirk, AB, where a minivan was submerged in the water. Divers found no sign of a body. As they prepared to leave, a woman who said she was the van's lone occupant arrived and told them her harrowing tale of swimming from the wreck to shore, then walking nearly 5 km in freezing weather for help.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2008: Smog reached near-record levels in Montreal, QC, due to successive days of unseasonably high temperatures and no wind to disperse pollutants. Readings at evening rush hour were 126 near the Décarie Interchange and just east of the downtown core. A rating of 51 is poor. Health officials cautioned the elderly and people with respiratory, asthma, or cardiovascular conditions.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1945: A mother struggling with a small child and a baby in her arms waited for a streetcar in Winnipeg, MB, during a blizzard. An elderly lady came to the rescue and held the baby. The Good Samaritan boarded the crowded bus, but it pulled away before the mother could get on. The frantic mother eventually got her baby back thanks to police and a transit supervisor.</p> <p>6</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>
<p>1951: At Wasaga Beach, ON, the worst storm in 20 years sent waves crashing inland battering stores and amusement concessions. On storm-tossed Lake Nipissing, high wind-waves damaged a dock and boathouse. An expensive launch tore from its moorings at Callander. Near Sault Ste. Marie, a barge with 13 men and 2 women aboard was cast adrift off Michipicoten Island.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>In a study of world travellers which group is more likely to research the weather at their proposed destination?</p> <p>8</p> <p>1) Americans 2) Canadians 3) French 4) Japanese 5) Australians</p> <p>(See inside back cover for answers)</p>	<p>2008: A member of a volunteer air search squad near Red Deer, AB, went missing while taking part in rescue exercises. The weather was foggy as he was flying home. His fellow volunteers scoured the area by air and ground. At 5 a.m. they found his downed Cessna 182 in a field near Innisfail Airport. He was known to be a very safe pilot, unwilling to take risks in bad weather.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1865: Intense rainfall fell near Yale and Douglas, BC, causing streams to rise 2 m and overflow, undermining roads and sweeping away bridges. Landslides destroyed bridges and roads near Lytton, rendering routes impassable for wagons. Near the coast, the storm packed gale-force winds and heavy rains but was less severe; that evening a magnificent evening rainbow lit up the eastern sky.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1854: It rained for several days around Saint John, NB. The hills were furrowed with running water and the gutters on the streets looked like small rivers. The storm downed telegraph lines, isolating the town. The 3-day deluge destroyed several bridges, swamped roads, and carried away a mill. Rushing floodwaters also swept away large quantities of hay and drowned herds of cattle.</p> <p>11</p> <p>Remembrance Day</p>	<p>2007: Two injured ice climbers survived a blizzard and freezing temperatures after plummeting down a mountain west of Calgary, AB. The men had successfully scaled a frozen slope on Mount Sparrowhawk when an ice cornice beneath them gave way, triggering an avalanche that may have cushioned their ride. They spent 22 hours in -10°C and suffered from hypothermia and fractures to hips and legs.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>2007: A storm packing gusts of 120 km/h tore across the Prairies. Trees snapped like toothpicks, power lines fell, and hairdos whipped into tangles. At Morley, AB, winds blew the roof off the Nakoda Lodge. SaskPower said the gusts affected performance of its 116 wind turbines near Swift Current. Motorists tightly gripped their steering wheels for fear of being blown off the road.</p> <p>13</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>
<p>1958: Winnipeg, MB's first major snowfall combined with freezing rain to turn streets into ice. Taxis took more than 2 hours to arrive. A motorist in a traffic jam left his car to get a cup of coffee from a nearby restaurant. When he came back traffic hadn't moved an inch. Others followed his example for an unexpected early morning coffee break.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1942: Edmonton, AB, and area received a record snowfall of more than 50 cm in places—a record that still stands today. Drifts in the city were waist-deep. To make matters worse, Edmonton had little snow removal equipment. To the relief of residents, U.S. Air Force troops and Alaska Highway crews who were in the city pitched in to clear snow.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>2008: Seven hydro workers and a pilot died in the crash of a small aircraft on South Thormanby Islands about 50 km northwest of Vancouver, BC. The plane crashed less than 20 minutes after takeoff, plunging through treetops and slamming into a hillside. One eyewitness described the fog at the accident scene as the worst in a long time. It was so thick that it muffled the sound of the crash. One passenger survived.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>2008: City crews in Moncton, NB, hurried to make new ice at the coliseum after an artificial mountain of snow melted prematurely when temperatures reached 18°C. The city had trucked in several tonnes of leftover shaved snow from arenas and piled it on top of a tarp to sculpt a snowboard hill for a competition. Large earthmovers and dump trucks later hauled it away.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1958: A day-long blizzard raged across southern Manitoba, blocking all roads in and out of Winnipeg with upwards of 50 cm of snow. The RCMP called it the worst traffic tie-up in Winnipeg's history. Hundreds of commuters started out for work on foot. Motorists who managed to dig out their cars were quick to pick up hitchhikers.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>2008: On a 12-km stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway near the Cobequid Pass, close to the Nova Scotia–New Brunswick boundary, more than 1,500 cars and trucks were stranded overnight. Winter's first storm brought a dump of wet snow that was left blowing around in strong winds. Sporadic power outages and treacherous driving were also reported in western Prince Edward Island.</p> <p>19</p>	<p>1833: Across the Maritimes, about half an hour before daybreak, the heavens presented a "shower of fire." People rose from their beds believing a fire was blazing nearby. One spectator said the stars appeared to descend suddenly and in great numbers. Sparks appeared to pass between adjacent houses, even to strike the ground. All signs indicated a brilliant meteorite display.</p> <p>20</p>

2008: Waist-deep snow piled up on a stretch of highway at Strathroy, ON, between London and Sarnia, stranding dozens of motorists. Police used snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles to reach victims who spent the night on the road. It was a classic lake-effect mini-blizzard. The local squall generated 12 hours of whiteouts and 1-m high drifts.

21

Full Moon ○

2008: A crowd of 400 shivered at the Winnipeg Zoo during a tribute to Debbie the polar bear, dead at age 42. It was weather only a polar bear would appreciate, said the *Winnipeg Free Press*. There were moist eyes and sniffles but mostly from freezing cold. The event's MC suggested a stranger passing by might question the sanity of Winnipeggers standing outside in -17 wind chill in memory of a polar bear.

22

1846: Across New Brunswick a storm tore wharves from their foundations, tossed slate roofs in every direction, swept a large schooner partly laden with bricks onto a public road, and rendered the Shediac Bridge impassable. Apparently, large haystacks changed ownership and every buoyant article flew into the woods or marshes. People were aroused from their sleep by the swaying motion of their houses and bedsteads.

23

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

24

2008: Some 500 narwhal whales got trapped in rapidly freezing ice near Pond Inlet, NU, before they could escape to the open water. A similar situation happened only once before, in 1943. Canada Fisheries approved a whale harvest because the animals would otherwise drown or starve. Every household now had muktuk to eat. People saw it as making the best of a bad situation.

25

1951: Montreal received more than 21 cm of snow causing 1,000 collisions and countless slips and falls. Bad weather was blamed for 26 deaths province-wide. Car owners lost patience and did not bother reporting accidents. More than 700 men worked feverishly spreading salt and cinders on surfaces. The tramway system was completely shut down; cab companies stopped accepting orders.

26

2008: A week ago, a 10-tonne meteorite broke up in a series of explosions before landing near Lloydminster, AB. The race was on to find the fragments before the first snowfall. University of Calgary astronomers were first to find lumps of meteorites on frozen ponds at a farm near Lone Rock, SK. They were lucky; it had been cold enough for water bodies to freeze.

27

2007: Cold winds made for brutal wind chills across the west. In Edmonton, 5 six-week-old puppies were recovering at the Humane Society after being dumped in an alley in -25°C weather. One of the dogs suffered from hypothermia and was confined to emergency care. Because of their size and with little hair, the puppies had a low resistance to the cold.

28

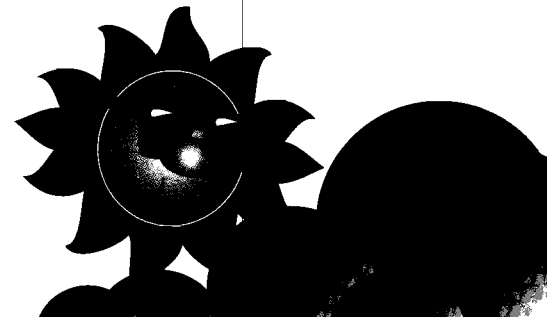
Last Quarter ●

2008: Residents of St. John's, NL, were cleaning up after a major storm off the Grand Banks brought nearly 100 mm of rain, much of it in less than 3 hours, causing flooding, road washouts, and rock slides. Water came up through manholes and pooled on streets. Several roads were closed. The deluge overwhelmed the drainage facility at the city's premiere soccer pitch and shifted and lifted the artificial turt.

29

1919: Heavy gales swept Lake Superior forcing freighters to shelter behind islands. A fleet of steamers remained off Whitefish Point awaiting better weather. Most of the bay was already frozen over and steamers in port found it difficult moving from dock to dock. On land, temperatures dipped below -20°C. The suddenness of the change found many unprepared.

30



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DECEMBER 2010

Sunday

Monday

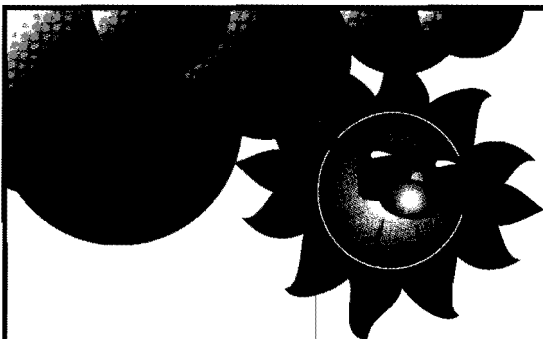
Tuesday

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Friday

Saturday



2008: Sudbury, ON, residents awoke to 10 cm of snow. The next day, a disabled person got stuck for 2 hours in his electric wheelchair in a sidewalk snowbank. A pedestrian reluctantly pushed him onto a busy, 6-lane roadway. Motorists honked and rolled down windows to curse him. The City responded that when sidewalks are impassable, disabled residents should use Handi-Transit.

1

2007: The Pacific coast swung wildly from winter snows to tropical rains. Victoria and Vancouver, BC, avoided the big snow dump with only 12 cm, but Campbell River was buried under more than 50 cm. The next day, a subtropical air mass from Hawaii—dubbed the Pineapple Express—ushered in warm air and drenching rains, causing school and road closures, power outages, and treacherous driving conditions.

2

2007: Ontario and Quebec struggled through winter's first big blast with an ugly mixture of snow, freezing rain, ice pellets, and rain. London, ON, got 60 cm of snow from almost continuous lake-effect squalls. About 200 drivers showed up at a local collision-reporting centre, setting a record for the worst day ever for crashes. Montrealeers dug out of a record 35 cm of snow.

3

2008: Search and rescue ships and helicopters continued searching waters off southern Newfoundland-Labrador in bad weather for the missing crew of a capsized French cargo ship carrying road salt. No distress signal was ever received before the ship sank. Experts said that the way the road salt was loaded and stored and subsequent rolling in rough seas might have contributed to the sinking.

4

1934: In heavy fog, a gang of gunmen staged a series of 5 hold-ups at Vancouver, BC, grocery and dairy stores. In every case, descriptions of the gunmen corresponded and police believed that they were an organized gang who had waited for a fog to stage their robberies. Their getaways were masked by heavy fog.

5

1858: A work train with a snowplough left Sherbrooke, QC, ahead of a passenger train to clear snow and freezing rain. Halfway across the Magog Bridge, the train engineer heard the timber cracking. On reaching the end, he leaped from the train. A fellow trainman died beneath the caboose wheels. Officials said that if the snowplough train had not gone first, the passenger train might have fallen through, causing a score of deaths.

6

2008: Two men flying a small plane from the U.S. to Sweden crash landed on a slab of mushy ice, 160 km south of Iqaluit, NU. The ice was just thick enough to support the aircraft, but within 5 minutes gave way as the pair clambered through a window to safety. Both suffered minor frostbite. The ice was only 10 cm thick, and the overnight temperatures were a relatively comfortable -8°C.

7

2008: It was the lowest turnout ever in a Quebec election. Pundits called it voter apathy, but weather was also a factor. Voting day was bitterly cold, perhaps the coldest Quebec election in 65 years. In Montreal and Quebec City, temperatures ranged from -12.5°C in the afternoon to -20.3°C at night, making it the coldest day of the winter so far.

8

1903: A steamer heading to Bowen Island, BC, encountered fog so dense that it couldn't get into Snug Cove to pick up a clergyman. Crew blew the foghorn for an hour; one mate beat a large tin; 2 others shouted. On shore, the postmaster blew foghorn blasts through his gun barrel and hoisted a lantern to the top of the flagstaff. The ship neither came in nor sent a boat for the mail or the clergyman.

9

1864: The steamer *George Moffatt* bound for Toronto, ON, with a cargo of salt encountered a storm off Port Darlington. The windstorm broke her smokestack, causing a loss of steam. She was driven ashore stern-first fast between 2 rocks. Inhabitants lined the beach to help. All made it ashore and were cared for by locals. Attempts to re-float the steamer were unsuccessful.

10

2008: Ottawa commuters made their way through snowbanks and gridlock as the first day of a transit strike coincided with winter's first blast. It was a real test with 34 cm of snow, freezing rain, and a wind chill of -24. Residents drove, walked, cycled, and skied to work or school. Vehicles on the Queensway were bumper-to-bumper much of the day. Despite the chaos, few students missed tests or were significantly late.

11

New Moon ●

Weather Quiz

What weather condition triggers the most avalanches?

12

- 1) wind
- 2) snowstorm
- 3) drop in temperature
- 4) pressure change
- 5) rise in temperature

(Answer on inside back cover)

1963: A Quebec MP rose in the House of Commons to ask the minister of transport for help for his constituents in remote communities along the St. Lawrence River. A recent storm sank a ship carrying 1,100 tonnes of beer. He asked what the government would do "so that my constituents can have beer for Christmas." The transport minister promised quick consideration of the problem.

13

2008: Prairie residents shivered in temperatures 12 degrees colder than normal. A minimum temperature of -36°C in Edmonton, AB, made it colder than the North Pole—too cold for skating, jogging, or skiing. In Saskatchewan, Key Lake was the coldest at -42°C. Meadow Lake felt more like -53 with the wind. Being it was the first blast of winter, many motorists had not plugged in their block heaters.

14

1944: For the sixth successive night, fog descended over Vancouver, BC, and spread along the coast. Dense fog slowed work in 4 shipyards and hampered production in factories, causing significant lateness and absenteeism. Although marine traffic was limited to essential vessels, there were at least 4 marine accidents.

15

1939: Across Winnipeg, MB, a fine drizzle ice-coated streets and sidewalks. Crews were out most of the night applying cinders and sand. With Christmas about a week away, people wondered if they would have a "green Christmas" like 8 years ago when golfers booked tee times on Christmas Eve, only to wake up to 15 cm of snow and a howling blizzard. [Christmas morning in 1939 was very green.]

16

2008: With the west in a deep freeze and the east enjoying 10°C temperatures, southern Ontario received what Environment Canada dubbed a "snow-mageddon." Snow smothered the region during the year's busiest travel and shopping week. It started with a "warm-up" snowstorm today of 10 cm. Powerful easterly winds gusting near 70 km/h blew the fluffy snow into whiteouts and huge drifts.

17

2008: The Spirit of Edmonton project was to re-enact Canada's first airmail flight from Winnipeg to Edmonton, AB, in 1928. Last week poor weather halted the flight in Neepawa, MB. Today, when the crew opened the throttle to accelerate, the carburetor froze. The temperature was -31°C. Said one of the pilots, it is like "driving down a highway at 130 km/h in -30°C weather with your head out the window."

18

1955: Residents in parts of Newfoundland-Labrador were shocked to see pansies growing a few days before Christmas. Instead of trimming holly, gardeners in Bay Roberts were picking colourful yellow and purple pansies. *Daily News* editors challenged those who claimed that winters were not getting milder by explaining flowers at this odd time of the year.

19

2008: In Vancouver, BC, temperatures plunged to -15.2°C (the coldest in 40 years)—hardly prairie-cold but still dangerous for west coast residents. When a Pacific storm ploughed into the cold air, it produced huge snowfalls across Vancouver Island. Around Duncan and Nanaimo, amounts ranged from 40 to 50 cm—likely one of the heaviest snowfalls at any time of the year over the last 60 years.

20

2008: A weather system packing strong winds and blowing snow began moving through the Maritimes. At Grand Étang, NS, winds gusted to 194 km/h. The winds downed trees, tore away shingles, siding, and fixtures from buildings and dismantled signage and caused frequent power outages. Along the coast several boats broke free from moorings. Powerful waves and a storm surge eroded the shoreline.

21

Winter Solstice
18:38 EST

Full Moon 

1999: At Haines Junction, YT, rain and mild temperatures melted the deep snowcover, resulting in flooded basements. One resident said he hadn't seen such flooding in 27 years. In the days following, about 1 m of new snow fell, but rain on Boxing Day washed it all away. Fortunately, the town used its vacuum truck to suck up the standing water before New Year's Day when temperatures fell to -32°C .

22

2008: Police found an Ancaster, ON, woman, missing for 3 days, buried in nearly 1 m of snow. Ace, a volunteer rescue dog, picked up the scent and went straight to the woman who was in a hypothermic state. Being encased in snow helped her retain body heat in winds of 80 km/h and temperatures of -16°C . It was Ace's first search-and-rescue mission. His owner said he deserved a steak and a beer.

23

2008: A handful of volunteers frantically dug out a herd of starving horses near McBride, BC. Trapped in snow more than 2 m deep, the horses were skinny, frostbitten, and missing large patches of hair. Their frail health precluded a helicopter rescue. Snowmobilers and other volunteers began hand-digging a 2,300-m trail to bring the animals to safety despite difficult weather.

24

2008: Canada had its first cross-country white Christmas since records of snow cover began in 1955. At Vancouver Airport, 27 cm of snow fell on Christmas Eve: the greatest amount on the ground for any Christmas morning. Chance of snow on the ground for Christmas morning in Vancouver, BC, is the lowest in Canada, yet the city boasted more than any other large Canadian city this year, some 41 cm—more than the North Pole!

25

Christmas Day

2008: Boxing Day snowfall caused more chaos on Vancouver, BC, roads, with many buses rerouted, delayed, cancelled, or stuck in wet snow. Air Canada used as much aircraft de-icing fluid as it would normally use in half a winter. There were several reports of store awnings collapsing under the weight of heavy snow. The city spent its entire year's snow removal budget in 2 weeks.

26

2004: After the Boxing Day tsunami in SE Asia, water levels in Halifax, NS, Harbour fell and rose more than 40 cm. The wave travelled relatively unobstructed, around Cape Horn, Africa, up the Atlantic Ocean to Halifax, moving at 740 km/h. Halifax had the most dramatic water level increase along the eastern seaboard. It was the first tsunami since 1883 (following Krakatoa volcano) observed over the entire world.

27

1959: Toronto, ON, braced for a second crippling ice storm in 2 days while thousands of hydro linemen fought to restore heat and light to thousands of homes in the GTA. Fallen trees and broken hydro lines blocked scores of streets. Bell Telephone reported 1,000 lines out. Hospital admissions to emergency wards were 3 times normal because of falls on icy streets.

28

2008: After a massive search effort hampered by more avalanches, rescuers discovered the bodies of 7 snowmobilers from Fernie, BC, buried beneath hard-packed snow spread over 12 m. Snowmobiles were scattered like tossed toys sticking out above the snow. In the past week, storms dropped 70 cm of snow in the Fernie area. Nearly 1/3 of that fell in the 24 hours prior to the deadly slides.

29

1910: A 3-day storm raged across southern and central Saskatchewan claiming several victims. Many homesteaders lost their way and perished. Their bodies were found a week later, frozen not far from the beaten trail. Three children from Yellowgrass going to their grandparents were caught in the blizzard. Searchers found the young boy dead, but his 2 sisters huddled next to him survived.

30

1833: A fierce storm east of Newfoundland-Labrador washed a captain and a sailor overboard. The remaining 9 crewmen clung to the sides till the foremast and mizzen-mast gave way, and the ship righted. Their only nourishment for 11 days was a dead rat and 6 candles. Over the next 3 days, the sea carried away the cook, who hadn't the strength to hold on. All but 2 of the remaining crew died from starvation.

31

New Year's Eve

Boxing Day

Last Quarter 

WEATHER QUIZ

ANSWERS

January	3) 9 to 1
February	4) blowing sand
March	3) mixture of milk and water
April	5) Atlantic Canada
May	5) 50%
June	4) 20 times
July	3) 21 July
August	3) thunderstorms
September	2) almost 4 hours
October	4) Tuesday
November	2) Canadians
December	1) wind