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JANUARY 2013

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Sunday

Monday




Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		<p>1999: Nine people died and 25 others were injured when an avalanche swept down on a New Year's celebration in an Inuit village. The avalanche crashed into a gym in Kangisualujuaq, QC, 1,500 km north of Montreal near Ungava Bay. Villagers immediately began kicking and digging by hand through 3 m of snow in a frantic effort to free dozens of trapped people.</p> <p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>1997: Brutally cold weather and thick ice fog settled over Yukon. The thermometer dipped to -52°C at Mayo and Dawson City and -45°C at Whitehorse—all record lows for the day. Towing companies were barraged with calls. One firm had to turn down about 500 requests. Because propane doesn't flow well when it's so cold, there were plenty of propane problems. Ice fog forced the cancellation of several flights.</p> <p>2</p> <p>Perihelion 00 EST</p>	<p>2010: Retreating tides transformed Petit-Rocher, NB, into an "all-you-can-eat lobster buffet." Hundreds of people with flashlights scooped up lobsters in 19-L pails. Everybody in town was boiling lobster; the general store ran out of salt. Some fishers worried that people walking around were crushing many "cigarette-sized" lobsters without even noticing.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1929: Two bush pilots in an open cockpit made a brave trip from Edmonton to Fort Vermilion, AB, in bitter cold to deliver some diphtheria antitoxin. Wind chill was -65 for the mercy flight. They wore buffalo coats, boots and leggings, 7 pairs of socks, and lined leather flying helmets, goggles, and scarves. At the end of the flight, when taking off his silk scarf, one pilot also took off part of his lip.</p> <p>4</p> <p>Last Quarter </p>	<p>2007: For the 1st time since Vancouver's BC Place stadium opened nearly 25 years ago, its huge, Teflon-coated fibreglass roof came down. A combination of natural causes—strong winds and mushy, wet snow—and human error led to the mishap. A small tear in the roof caused a rapid reduction in air pressure. As officials hustled to deflate the roof, the ripped panel tore off completely.</p> <p>5</p>
<p>1956: A glaze storm blanketed everything in Summerside, PE, with a coat of ice. Two days later, there was not one utility pole left standing between Summerside and Miscouche, PE. One pole fell and the rest—2,800—toppled like a line of dominoes. Twigs on the trees were as big as your arm with built-up ice. For some rural people, it was not until June that power was re-established.</p> <p>6</p> <p>Epiphany</p>	<p>1998: Canada's most destructive weather event was in its third day. Ice Storm '98 was monstrous: 70–110 mm of freezing precipitation and 80 hours of ice rain, nearly double the normal annual duration. Its wide geographic coverage—from Ontario to New Brunswick—was extreme. About 900,000 Quebec households and 100,000 Ontario homes had no power. Property damage costs and business losses exceeded \$5 billion.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1901: Major Bennett of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles rebuked some men who refused to attend a service for the safe return of South African soldiers due to a "petty" snowstorm in Vancouver, BC. (Hardly petty—111.3 cm of snow fell over the previous 8 days.) The major called them fair-weather soldiers, unfit to wear the Queen's uniform, and a curse and a disgrace to their regiment.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>2008: Howling winds peaked at 107 km/h in Toronto, ON. Police cordoned off the city's main financial hub during the morning rush hour, when pieces of signs from bank skyscrapers tumbled 58 storeys to the ground. The empty streets below were a surreal scene reminding some businesspeople of a post-apocalyptic movie set.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1997: Extremely cold weather prompted officials to postpone a winter-survival workshop at the Delta Marsh University field station, 20 km north of Portage La Prairie, MB. Organizers were concerned that the students arriving from Winnipeg would be stranded on the TransCanada Highway by cold temperatures and blowing snow, and in need of survival skills before they had received them.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>2000: A winter thunder and lightning show is unusual in Canada. On this night, however, a loud, booming thunderstorm could be heard clear across Nova Scotia. Some houses in Halifax shook, and windows rattled. Many callers to the weather office said the noise frightened their children. The lightning and racket also sent dogs and cats scurrying to corners or under beds.</p> <p>11</p> <p>New Moon </p>	<p>2001: Winter had hit early, and there were record and near-record snowfalls in December. Windshield-washing fluid became a hot item for sale in eastern Canada. Demand was up 70% in Ontario and 40% in Quebec. Major producers pumped out jugs of windshield-washer fluid around the clock but still couldn't keep up with demand. Someone's solution for the shortage: raid your liquor cabinet.</p> <p>12</p>
<p>2005: It was the coldest day of the winter on the Prairies, with temperatures dipping to -39°C and wind chills to -50. In an Edmonton, AB, seniors' residence, ice buildup caused a furnace malfunction. Firefighters arrived and evacuated around 40 residents. Said one 83-year-old: "I quickly threw on something and got my boots and my dentures. Because that is the worst thing—to be caught without dentures."</p> <p>13</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1950: The Laurentian hills in Quebec were green or ice-covered from recent rains. Resort hotels were almost empty. Feeling the pinch in lost snow business, workers at winter resorts went to church to pray for snow. Most locals dependent on a wintery economy—hotel and kitchen staff, taxi drivers, and shopkeepers—asked God to bring snow to save them from an economic disaster.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1931: A strong gale swept out of Alberta and into Saskatchewan. Residents in Regina, SK, felt the dirt-filled gale was more violent than a blizzard. Heavy dirt, hanging in the air, made it difficult for travellers to reach their destinations. Flying ashes from backyards filled the dust-choked air, along with loose boards and rubbish of all kinds. Some said tumbleweeds travelled as fast as trains.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1994: Blinded by blowing snow, a woman drove her car into the back of a transport-trailer near Edmonton, AB. The transport driver continued with the vehicle stuck beneath the tanker for 30 minutes, despite the woman's attempts to break free. Blowing snow kept other drivers from noticing. The truck driver stopped when he heard the car's tires exploding. The woman suffered only a broken ankle.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1977: Arctic cold reached all the way to Florida. People who had fled to Miami and Palm Beach watched in horror as big wet snowflakes floated down from the sky. To the north, 7,000 km away in Whitehorse, people were outside in their shirtsleeves in 9°C temperatures. Hockey games were cancelled because of lack of ice, and bears, thoroughly confused by the warmth, came out of hibernation.</p> <p>18</p> <p>First Quarter </p>	<p>2004: Near Evangeline, PE, a storm surge at high tide carried tonnes of sea ice across cliffs and dunes, and slammed into beachfront cottages and summer homes. The ice floes were 50 cm thick and from 3–4 m long. The ice pushed one cottage off its posts and deposited it 2 m inland. The only permanent damage was to a cottage where sheets of sea ice crashed through a wall and lodged in the interior.</p> <p>19</p>

2000: The Geological Survey of Canada received calls from people in Ontario and Quebec reporting earth tremors. A seismologist ruled out an earthquake, explaining that the sudden deep freeze after weeks of mild, wet weather had triggered earth contractions strong enough to shake houses. With little or no snow to insulate the ground, the cold penetrates more deeply and quickly.

20

2010: Two alleged members of an international organized crime syndicate were found shivering at the side of a Manitoba highway after sneaking into Canada. The fugitives were walking to Winnipeg, MB. RCMP found the pair near the Canada-US border, crossing with relatives, including 4 children. All residents of Guatemala, they were underdressed and relieved to be picked up.

21

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

22

2000: Two days after a severe storm that struck the Maritimes, it was discovered that 2 cottages at Tatamagouche Bay, NS, had been lifted from their foundations, turned around, and deposited hundreds of metres down the beach. One cottage owner said, "We had bottles on a shelf over the kitchen cabinets. None of the bottles had fallen off. They were still sitting there."

23

1908: In Manitoba, Winnipeggers played tennis on snow-free courts, minus mitts and coats. Earlier that week, it was nearly 6°C. Buggies, not cutters, jogged along prairie roads; farmers fixed barbed-wire fences with bare hands and worried about dust storms; and workers laid the last rails on the CNR line to The Pas. In Fort William, ON, Doukhobors paraded in the nude, without being frostbitten.

24

2002: Three youth at a detention centre in Annapolis Valley, NS, took advantage of record-breaking snowfall to escape by building a snowbank high enough to climb over a fence in the yard. One was arrested within minutes. When the deputy superintendent spotted the other 2, he simply stopped the car and asked if they were cold enough to come back. They gladly returned to custody.

25

Weather Quiz
Which province averages the greatest number of hours of sunshine in winter?

26

- 1) Saskatchewan
- 2) British Columbia
- 3) Manitoba
- 4) Ontario
- 5) New Brunswick

Answer on inside back cover

Full Moon 

1913: A man outside a cabin near Slocan City, BC, saw a snowslide coming straight for him. He ran for a big tree, intending to climb it. However, the avalanche overtook him and buried him in a solid mass of hard snow, leaving his head and one arm exposed. His cabin mates heard his shouting and dug him out. Being only lightly clad and buried in snow for an hour, the man suffered considerably.

27

1977: The "Blizzard of '77" is long remembered in the Niagara Peninsula as their "storm of the century." In Wainfleet, ON, teachers became trapped with their students for 2 nights. On the third day, road crews used a lull in the storm to open up access roads to the schools. At one point, an army helicopter was used to drop some students into their own backyards.

28

1947: The worst winter storm in Canadian railway history had trains buried in monstrous snowdrifts for up to 2 weeks on the Prairies. Near Weyburn, SK, men dug 6 m to reach the rails and only the tops of telegraph poles were visible. A Hodgeville farmer fed and watered his chickens through the coop's chimney, and a Moose Jaw farmer chopped a hole in his barn roof to milk his cows.

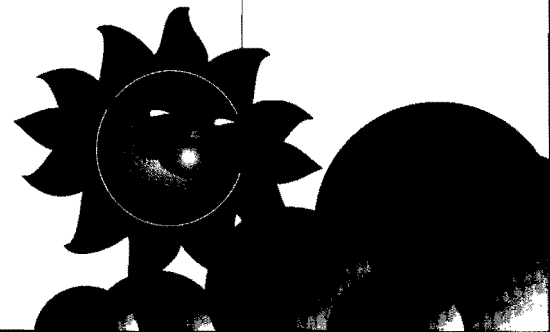
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1954: A tornado, accompanied by heavy hail and lightning, struck White Point Beach near Liverpool, NS. Since tornadoes rarely occur in the Maritimes, even in summer, this was a freakish event. Wreckage was strewn over a distance of approximately 1 km, and large beams were driven into the earth to a depth of almost 0.5 m.

30

2001: Clean-up and rescue operations continued at a Ste-Marie-de-Kent farm in New Brunswick after part of the barn roof sheltering 9,000 pigs collapsed under heavy snow, killing hundreds of pigs. No human was in the barn when about a quarter of the roof fell in. About 2 dozen people helped remove the debris and rescue pigs still alive under the rubble.

31



FEBRUARY 2013

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Sunday

Monday

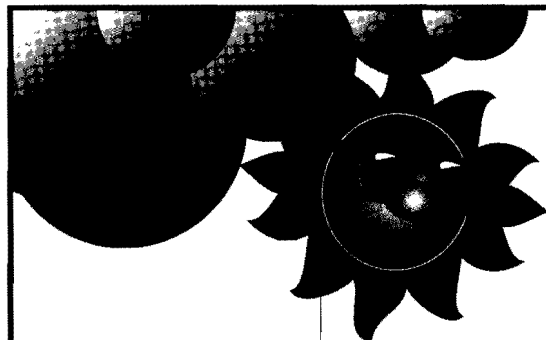
Tuesday

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Saturday



1947: At Snag, YT, it dipped to -61°C , the lowest temperature reading ever recorded in North America. Residents seemed to move like zombies, afraid to work hard enough to breathe the frigid air too deeply into their lungs. At the government liquor store, employees scrambled to keep the beer from freezing. The stovepipe glowed red from halfway up all the way to the ceiling.

3

1989: Temperatures in Regina, SK, stayed below the -30°C mark and were accompanied by a biting wind. Exposed skin froze in less than a minute. Canada Post appealed to homeowners to "warm up a postie." Many residents put signs on their mailboxes to notify carriers that they could come inside for coffee. Still, the effort was not able to prevent several cases of frostbite.

4

2010: This date often marks the dead of winter in Iqaluit, NU, with temperatures lows of -43.3°C . The media were surprised when Canada invited world financial ministers and bankers to Iqaluit for two-day meetings. Surprisingly, the weather was more like an Arctic heat wave with temperatures of -13.5° . Financial ministers and bankers went dogsledding and ate seal meat at a communal feast.

5

1913: A pair of Ontario provincial police pursued a couple of whisky thieves from Cobalt, ON. The two officers travelled by horse-driven sleighs and on snowshoes in a raging blizzard, over 2 days of whiteouts and intense cold. They snowshoed 25 km over frozen lakes. After 53 hours and with less than 2 hours of sleep, they apprehended the pair.

6

2001: New Brunswick students of all ages are convinced that if you wear your pajamas inside-out on the night of a storm enough snow will fall to close schools the next day. For some youngsters, this trick worked 4 times this winter. Some kids wear their pajamas backwards, as well, just to increase the odds of having a snow day.

7

1996: Frigid temperatures continued across the Prairies for the third consecutive week. Near Stavely, AB, a farmer put duct tape on the ears of his newborn calves so their ears wouldn't fall off. In Vanscoy, SK, Pepper the dog got his tongue stuck to an electric frying pan as he gobbled up food. He was spotted running home with the pan hanging from his tongue.

1

1928: In Ontario, drizzle froze as it fell, making roads a glare of ice. Many cars ended up in ditches. A Kitchener, ON, hockey club was motoring back from Hamilton, ON, when its bus broke down. Five of the players donned their skates and skimmed along the highway for 17 km, arriving at Kitchener early in the morning. The players reported the ice was excellent, and the trip was made without mishap.

8

1976: A Groundhog Day storm slammed the Maritimes. Grand Manan Island, NB, had a peak wind of 188 km/h; losses were from \$10 to \$50 million. Saint John, NB, was the hardest hit, with lengthy power outages and damage to buildings, bridges, and dockyards. 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.

2

Groundhog Day

1905: A huge snowstorm buried the Maritime Express at Folly Mountain, NS, for 3 days. So deeply buried were the locomotives that a hole had to be poked through a drift to get air into the engine cabs and expel the coal gas. Water for boilers was exhausted, so crew shovelled snow into the tender to melt it. A driver of a team of horses hauling hay drove his rig overtop of the train.

9

Last Quarter

1894: A resident living above a fur store in Montreal, QC, awoke to see 3 men disappear with bundles under their arms. Police traced their footprints in the snow from store to store and finally to a house. A light was burning inside the dwelling, but no one answered the door. Through the keyhole, police could see the bundles of furs, so they broke open the door and arrested the thieves.

10

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

11

1911: A fierce gale near Victoria, BC, with wind gusts exceeding 100 km/h, drove huge waves against the shore of Ross Bay, washing out gravesites and carrying coffins out to sea. The cemetery caretaker frantically dug up exposed coffins and moved them to a secure location. Among the coffins were the remains of smallpox victims. No one was willing to help him dig up the coffins.

12

2009: An 18-hole golf course opened on the harbour ice in Georgetown, PE. A round of "golf" cost \$10. Discarded Christmas trees lined the fairways and putting greens were painted with green food colouring. The course also had "sand traps" made of snow. A 16-team tournament was held in March. In 2008, the tournament had to be cancelled owing to unseasonable warmth—the harbour never froze.

13

1982: The world's largest offshore oil rig, *Ocean Ranger*, sank off Newfoundland resulting in 84 deaths and losses of \$60 million. Search-and-rescue crews battled poor visibility in freezing rain and snow, as well as freezing spray, turbulent seas, and buffeting winds, in an attempt to locate survivors. There were none.

14

2010: After the warmest January on record, Vancouver, BC, 2010 Olympic workers hauled snow from elsewhere in the province to Cypress Bowl, site of the snowboard event. Beset by rainy, spring-like weather, they worked around the clock to groom the venue. The next day, heavy rain and warmth washed away most of the snow in the fenced-off area for standing room at the snowboard cross site.

15

1993: The temperature at Redvers, SK, dipped to around -30°C . In the Garniers' unheated barn, newborn calves suffered from frostbitten ears. "I felt so sorry for my babies, so I got out a tape measure and some fleece, and sewed a set of Mickey Mouse ears," said Marge Garnier. The muffs fasten to the calf's head with Velcro straps. The result was "Marge's Muffs."

16

Chinese New Year
(Year of the Snake)

New Moon

Ash Wednesday

Valentine's Day

National Flag of Canada Day

2008: The weather observer at Chetwynd, BC, heard a commotion in her goat shed while she was taking her 4:00 p.m. observation. As she steadied the goat, she was attacked by a wolf, which chomped on her arm and pulled hard. She got away and phoned a neighbour, who shot the intruder. She missed that observation but was back at it the next day. Those northern weather observers are tough!

17

First Quarter 

1988: Chinooks continued to hamper the Winter Olympics after they opened at Calgary, AB, 5 days earlier. On February 13 and 18, wind speeds exceeded 200 km/h at the 2,200-m ridge top of Mount Allan. On the 21st, at Canada Olympic Park, winds in excess of 100 km/h whipped dust, sand, and tiny pebbles from nearby hills onto the ski-jumping course and bobsled run, forcing cancellation of these events for the day.

18

Family Day (many regions)

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 -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

1979: For the first time on record, all 5 Great Lakes froze over at the same time. They were more than 90% frozen, forming windrows as high as 3 metres. Tugs and icebreakers had a tough time keeping navigation lanes open, and all water transport ceased. Some people tried to travel the 100 km across Lake Michigan by snowmobile. The US and Canadian Coast Guards asked people to stay off the ice.

20

Weather Quiz

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

- 1) Victoria
- 2) Warton
- 3) Halifax
- 4) Edmonton
- 5) Ottawa

Answer on inside back cover

21

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

22

Heritage Day (Yukon)

1994: A 2-year-old "froze to death" outside her parent's home in Rouleau, SK, during a vicious blizzard accompanied by brutal wind chills. The little girl wandered outside at 2 a.m. Her mother found her lifeless body about 6 hours later. The child made the Guinness Book of Records with the dubious distinction of surviving with the lowest recorded body temperature. Doctors estimate her core body temperature fell to 14°C, some 23 degrees below normal.

23

2003: The temperature in Winnipeg, MB, dipped to -35.9°C, the coldest day that winter. At Scoopy Doo Canine Waste Removal, business was picking up. Calling them poopsicles, the owner said, "It's actually easier to clean ... because it's so frozen you just whack it out ... like a golf ball."

24

Purim

1999: A Saudi Arabian-registered cargo ship ran into a storm at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. Huge, 2-m rolls of cardboard broke free inside the hold and crushed other cargo: at least 30 luxury sedans, 1 school bus, and tonnes of cans of corn. An eyewitness remarked, "I don't think crushers that crush cars could do as good a job as was done on the cars."

25

Full Moon 

2005: Vancouver set a record high bright sunshine total for February—more than 151 hours—but the exact figure will never be known because someone made off with Environment Canada's sunshine recorder. The 12-cm-diameter glass globe is valued at more than \$2,000. In the past, such recorders have been stolen by psychics or fortune tellers, because they resemble the globes of fortune tellers.

26

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 his whereabouts.

27



1952: Eighteen United States airmen parachuted to safety in a blizzard outside Sydney, NS, as their transport plane hurdled into the woods at the edge of the city. The men leaped safely after 20 attempts to land at the reserve airport. Several narrowly missed high-tension wires. Others dangled from trees for a time, bashed by 80-km/h winds. Shoulder-deep snow on the ground helped cushion their fall.

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MARCH 2013

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1941: A young farm boy walked 15 km through snow-drifts in -25°C weather to enlist in the army at Innisfree, AB, but was rejected by medical officers. He remarked, "It's a funny thing that I can walk 9 miles here and 9 miles return and still not be fit enough to join up." Recruiting officers were impressed by his spirit and that of countless others, but he was too young and too short. **3**

1971: A massive snowfall in Montreal, QC, left 2-storey drifts and 17 people dead from heart attacks, asphyxiation, or traffic accidents. Stranded workers and partiers crowded hotels, bars, and restaurants, and police on snowmobiles kept order. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau flew to Vancouver, BC, where, to the surprise of everyone but the 12 witnesses, he married Margaret Sinclair. **4**

Last Quarter 

1989: Soon after takeoff from Dryden Airport, an Air Ontario jet, with snow- and ice-encrusted wings, crashed in dense bush. Conditions were perfect for the formation of wing icing. Of the 69 people aboard, 24 perished. Rescuers had to plough through a metre of snow to get to survivors. **10**

1908: A young J.G. Diefenbaker and an uncle were at a concert when a blizzard struck and temperatures fell to -22°C. They became disorientated on the way home, and Diefenbaker fell asleep. When the pair arrived home, John's legs were like "blocks of wood." For years, the future prime minister was afraid to go outside in a blizzard. **11**

New Moon 

1923: At daybreak, 2 Montreal, QC, policemen spied a man trudging over the snowy pavement, barefoot and draped in a curtain. The temperature was -17.2°C. They took the almost nude man to the station where he explained he had lost his money and clothes playing strip poker. Police took pity on him, especially after he called his wife, now fuming, to bring some replacement clothes to the station. **5**

1899: The new 8,200-tonne *Castilian*, one of the world's largest steamers, came aground about 20 km from Yarmouth, NS. There was dense fog, and no land was visible. Those on board were unaware of the accident until the fog lifted and they saw the shore. Water filled the forward compartment, drowning 200 sheep. Ten days later the *Castilian* broke in two during a gale. **12**

1987: For the second day in a row, training runs for the women's World Cup downhill event were called off at Mt. Allan, AB. A Chinook bringing 12°C temperatures and high winds melted much of the snow base, leaving slush and water in the finish area. Though conditions improved for the race on the 8th, journalists dubbed the course "Mt. Mushmore." **6**

1922: The Merchant Marine steamer *Canadian Raider* became so ice encrusted on a voyage from Saint John, NB, to Hull, England, that she was mistaken for a floating iceberg by some vessels in the mid-Atlantic. Soon after leaving Saint John with a cargo of wheat, she encountered a gale that blew for several days. The temperature dropped below -20°C, leaving her caked in 30-cm-thick ice. **13**

1942: The S.S. *Independence Hall*, with tins of sodium as cargo, grounded on Sable Island, NS. Within hours, massive ocean waves broke the ship in two, sending 9 men overboard. Two years later, as gales continuously uncovered the tins, they would rise to the surface and wash ashore. **7**

1927: The worst blizzard in decades left snow-bound Saskatoon, SK, in 1- to 2-metre drifts. Hundreds of citizens donned snowshoes and walked to work, many collapsing from exhaustion. The city's horse-drawn sidewalk snow plough struggled to cut a lane through the drifts. Restaurateurs reaped a rich profit from the storm when businessmen ate downtown rather than brave the drifts. **14**

1950: A Winnipeg, MB, woman's phone number in the city directory was listed right above the local weather office's listing. As it had only a note in small type to look elsewhere in the directory, people inadvertently called her. "Is it still chilly outside?" asked one. "At that moment," said the frustrated woman, "my radio was blaring that it was -37° below zero F with no let-up expected." **1**

2001: Off Pouch Cove, NL, 3 boys died as they were jumping between table-sized chunks of ice about 50 metres from shore. One boy fell into the frigid water and slipped under the ice. Two boys were swept into the ocean trying to save him. Frolicking on ice floes is called "copying" or "ballycatting" in Newfoundland, and happens when winds blow ice into the harbours of coastal communities. **8**

1998: For just \$47 a night, patrons of the Prairie's Edge Motel in Letellier, MB, could stay in a Flood of the Century theme room, with sandbags on the floor, rubber boots by the bed, and evacuation instructions on the wall. Said the proprietor, "We had a couple in from Switzerland, and they had seen the flood on TV, but they said it seemed more real after they stayed in the room." **15**

1965: Lucien Rivard, convicted drug smuggler, escaped from a Montreal, QC, jail after obtaining a garden hose, supposedly to flood the penitentiary skating rink. The weather was cloudy, with light winds from the southwest, and temperatures 5°C above freezing. It seems Rivard used the hose to scale the wall. **2**

1910: A watchman at the railway snow shed near Field, BC, was standing near his cabin when an avalanche pinned him against the wall, burying him for 8 hours. A rescue party failed to find him and two hours later, figuring he was dead, sent for a coffin. Just then, the man's dog began scratching in the snow some distance away: the workmen dug there and discovered the victim unconscious but still alive. **9**

1997: A stranded Inuk hunter dodged wolves and walked 60 km with frostbitten feet to the safety of the airport at Iqaluit, NWT (now Nunavut). Exhausted and dehydrated, he reached the airport around midnight and repeatedly flicked his lighter, hoping someone would come to his aid. A security guard spotted him waving and yelling with a rifle slung over his shoulder, and called the RCMP. **16**

Daylight Saving Time Begins

17 1998: It was St. Patrick's Day, but nothing was green in Calgary after its worst mid-March storm in 113 years. The record snowfall produced slick roads and power failures. Flights were cancelled and businesses and schools closed. Downtown Calgary was a ghost town. Motorists couldn't dig out of their driveways, and the bus system ground to a halt. Ranchers had to feed their stock from horseback.

St. Patrick's Day

24 2000: Bad weather forced a pilot to land his small plane on the Trans-Canada Highway about 50 km east of Dryden, ON. He didn't have enough fuel to make it to Dryden, so he retuelled at a truck stop.
Palm Sunday

31 2003: High tides, heavy snow, and a carwash-like downpour (80 to 120 mm in 12 hours) caused major flooding in the Maritimes. For Nova Scotia, it was the most expensive rainstorm in history.
Easter Sunday

18 1868: A tornado in Toronto, ON, wrecked the Grand Trunk Railway locomotive shop—a large brick building about 50 m long and 15 m wide. Winds blew a man driving a lumber wagon into Lake Ontario. A railway car got loose and was pushed along at the rate of 30 km/h for a short distance. The roof of an ice house was lifted 20 m into the air and moved 200 m, becoming a substitute for the roof of a car factory.

25 1954: Thick fog enclosed the US military base in St. Anthony, NL. As locals watched in horror, a 16,000-kg SA-16 Albatross amphibious plane emerged from the fog, hooked a boulder, tore through a house, dug into the road's shoulder, and slammed into a shed. Aviation fuel filled the air and soaked the ground but the aircraft did not explode and the 10 people on board survived.

19 1896: One of the worst March storms in years blew into Toronto and parts of southern Ontario. The heavy snow blocked roads and rail lines. East of Toronto, a local farmer and his 2 sons noticed what looked like the top of a pail lying in the snow. With the three digging away, they soon uncovered the smokestack of an abandoned railway engine.

First Quarter 

26 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.

Passover

20 Weather Quiz
What is the average life expectancy of a snow shovel?

- 1) 1 season
- 2) 2.5 years
- 3) 3 years
- 4) 5 years
- 5) 10 years

Answer on inside back cover

Spring Equinox 07:02 EDT

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

 Full Moon 

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

28 1964: Following the strongest North American earthquake this century, a 67-m tsunami—the largest ever observed in North America—was recorded off Valdez, Alaska. It swept down Canada's West Coast at speeds up to 720 km/h. It killed more than 100 in Alaska, devastated the Vancouver Island community of Port Alberni, then went on to kill 11 more in California.

22 2009: A man was found frozen to death north-west 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.

29 1958: A plucky 7-year-old German shepherd returned to his farm home at Marie, PE, after being entombed for 82 days in a snow-filled railway ditch. A farm boy heard a whimper and found the animal in the ditch about 400 m from the family home. The dog couldn't walk or bark and was half his normal weight, but, fed cat food and milk, he gained it back quickly.

Good Friday

23 1907: March lightning storms in Newfoundland are rare. At Harbour Grace, lightning wrecked a house. At Cape Broyle, another strike burst through the windows of one residence, setting fire to curtains, clothes, and papers. Yet another strike exploded in a room underneath an office. Fortunately, the fire was extinguished without much damage.

World Meteorology Day

30 1848: As a result of a wind-driven ice jam near Buffalo, NY, Niagara Falls ran dry. The sudden silence startled hundreds from their sleep and filled churches with those who feared the end of the world. Others walked out onto the riverbed to hunt for artifacts. The accumulation of ice at the river's egress from Lake Erie had blocked the outlet.

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APRIL 2013

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1967: In nasty weather, a bush pilot landed his aircraft on a frozen lake 360 km from Yellowknife, NT. He huddled inside the plane for 58 days at below -50°C temperatures, only leaving it to stamp out SOS in the snow. He would lose 3 toes on his right foot and 2 on his left to amputation. News of his rescue was considered a sick April Fool's joke, as he had been given up for dead after 15 days.

1

Easter Monday

1976: During a disastrous flood in Perth-Andover, NB, a train was placed on a bridge over the Saint John River to act as ballast. Despite this, the bridge collapsed, and the train was carried into the flood along with the bridge. Thirteen cars, carrying phosphates, nitrates, and sulphates, ruptured, and their contents were released into the river.

2

1876: At Rivière-du-Loup, QC, millions of flies fell during a snowshower. Unable to fly, the insects walked over the snowcover, which extended over several hectares. They resembled mosquitoes but were considerably larger. Residents sent a bottle of the flies to Laval University for study.

3

1997: Strong winds packed sea ice along the Cape Breton coastline for 2 days, trapping 2 ferries, a small Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker, and a coastal oil tanker. Among the 5,000 passengers were roadies for rock legend Bob Dylan, along with the band's equipment. Because of the ice, 2 sold-out concerts in Halifax, NS, had to be cancelled.

4

2001: Electricity in Quebec City's Ice Hotel was turned off, and the structure was bulldozed and pushed into the St. Lawrence River. The \$500,000 hotel had attracted 40,000 visitors from around the globe—3 times the number projected for the \$100-per-person hotel. Some guests found sleeping in a sleeping bag atop animal fur on an ice bed difficult. However, only 1% didn't stay the night, due to claustrophobia not the cold.

5

1954: A Hanover, ON, woman—an invalid housebound with arthritis—walked upstairs for the first time in 2 years after lightning struck her home. Another bolt struck the home of her son on the farm next to hers, blowing out all the windows on the main floor, making a shambles of one room, and leaving the family dog deaf. Flowerpots in the windows of the house were thrown to the centre of the room.

6

1977: The Toronto Blue Jays played their inaugural home baseball game at Exhibition Stadium before 44,649 fans. At the start of the game, light, continuous snow fell, winds were southeast at 22 km/h, and there was a -10° windchill. Head umpire Joe Brinkman said he had never seen snow at a ballpark before. Umpire Rich Garcia from Florida said he had never seen snow, period! Blue Jays 9, White Sox 5.

7

1922: Near Lethbridge, AB, a shepherd saved his employer's flock in a blinding blizzard. For 20 hours, he managed to keep the herd of 2,500 sheep intact, constantly digging the weaker animals from snowdrifts. Without warm clothing himself and weak from hunger, he was near collapsing from exhaustion and exposure when he was found and rescued. Fewer than a dozen sheep perished.

8

Weather Quiz
What colour of hair is more susceptible to changes in relative humidity and therefore is used in hair hygrometers?

9

- 1) black
- 2) blond
- 3) brown
- 4) treated hair
- 5) grey

Answer on inside back cover

1996: Wiarton Willie was under protective custody after receiving several death threats. It seems some winter-weary folk were angry that the early spring Willie promised had not arrived. Willie's handler said that he was getting as many as 20 phone calls a day about the weather and the incorrect prediction. Several callers screamed in the phone before hanging up, "That damn groundhog should be shot."

10

New Moon ●

1968: An early season tornado struck Watson, SK. The twister drove a stick 5 cm in diameter completely through a solid, 0.5-m-thick door. The tornado picked up a car shed and carried it 20 m before dashing it to the ground, yet it ignored a pile of lumber at the side of the shed. Five years ago a tornado had destroyed a car shed in the same yard.

11

1893: Another winter storm plagued Winnipeg, MB. Electric cars made occasional trips, usually only for short distances. It was the worst blockade of the winter for the transit system. The local operatic society, with its penchant for staging openings on stormy nights, held its first performance of *Dorothy* today and was thus blamed for yet another weather mess.

12

2001: Dust clouds rolled across BC's Lower Mainland and interior. The fine particles were sand from the Gobi Desert! Jet-stream winds had carried the dust cloud 15,000 km after it was whipped up by a storm in Mongolia and western China in early April. The cloud moved to the Gulf of Alaska and down Canada's West Coast before travelling eastward across the continent.

13

1863: The *PEI Islander* newspaper prints a pedestrian's recommendation for sidewalks: "It was ludicrous as well as painful to see on last Sabbath, ladies of all ages ... floundering about in the mud like swine in a hog sty."

14

1912: On the night of the 14th to 15th, the *Titanic* collided with an iceberg 700 km southeast of Newfoundland. At least 1,500 of the 2,200 aboard drowned in the worst accident caused by an iceberg. St. John's had clear skies with light winds. Even a slight wind would have caused ripples at the base of the iceberg, making it easier for the lookout to spot, and perhaps providing enough warning to have avoided the collision.

15

1987: North of Calgary, the mild winter (temperatures peaked at 16°C in January and 21°C in early March) and unharvested grain fields produced the worst infestation of field mice in 40 years.

16

1935: The Black Sunday storm was one of the most memorable dust storms of the Dirty Thirties. Ships' crews far out into the Atlantic had to sweep decks that had been covered in prairie dust. In some cases, soil piled up so high in attics that ceilings collapsed. Some people hung wet sheets and blankets over doors and windows to keep the dust out.

17

1922: Torrential rains fell in Montreal, QC, during a 90-minute storm. Strong winds carried away roots, and pieces of tin cascaded from some buildings. Hats careered over the streets with owners in hot pursuit. In one serious accident, a person fell 6 floors through the steel frame of a building, landed on a wooden form for concrete structures, but then got up and walked to an ambulance.

18

2000: A massive straw fire near Winkler, MB, created a tornado that sucked up a pickup truck and tossed it 50 m away, like a toy, killing the driver. The fire consumed the 100,000 bales of flax straw and could be seen 100 km away. The sky was so red that it was a night of perpetual dawn. Large fire funnels are rare. The fire consumes oxygen and fresh, colder air rushes in to fill the vacuum, forming a vortex.

19

1996: A severe line of thunderstorms unleashed 2 tornadoes in Ontario, one rated an F3. One twister near Williamsford plucked a 78-year-old man from the kitchen of his trailer and flung him 150 m into a field. He recalled opening a can of soup, hearing the storm, then seeing splintering glass. Next he remembers crawling in the field spitting dirt and looking for his glasses and false teeth.

20

1997: The Flood of the Century came to Manitoba, forcing thousands to flee the Red River Valley. Troops and volunteers, some from Stony Mountain Prison, worked around the clock to shore up dykes. Air-raid sirens shrieked across the drowned valley as 17,000 people were told to evacuate. Authorities said the volume of water heading to Winnipeg was more than the valley had seen in 500 years.

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 geese collected were distributed to townspeople for goose dinners. Severe thunderstorms during the day dropped up to 35 mm of rain.

22

2000: About a half-dozen icebergs menaced 3 oilrigs on the Grand Banks, off Newfoundland. It was the first time in 10 years that icebergs—some of them the size of small apartment buildings—threatened drilling operations. Water cannons were used to blast the icebergs, but those shooting the icebergs couldn't see them because of the thick fog. The Grand Banks is one of the foggiest places in the world.

23

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

24

1954: Near Nanaimo, BC, a freak whirlwind lifted a 2-car garage over 2 m, broke it apart, and sent shingles up to 70 m away. The explosive wind left untouched an old model "Nash" car within the garage. Children of one family were so frightened by the terrific noise the storm made as it fluttered their clothes that they ran and hid in their house.

25

Full Moon ○

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

26

2003: Forty-four Quebec City high-school students and their chaperones were ice-bound on a ship, surrounded by 50 km of ice floes near Blanc Sablon, QC. Strong southerly winds kept the ice walls and ridges in place. The students were bored, but could call home 3 times. After more than a week, the weather improved and helicopters evacuated students to a local airport so they could fly home.

27

1967: A 3-day snowfall in southern Alberta brought Lethbridge's total for April snowfall to 162 cm and plugged roads with 3-m drifts thrown up by 90 km/h winds. The snow isolated farms, closed schools, and starved thousands of cattle, many within sight of barns. Helicopters were used to airlift hay to stranded herds and milk to babies. Snowmobile clubs helped ferry food, hospital patients, and doctors. Some good news: southern Albertans were granted a 2-week extension for filing income tax.

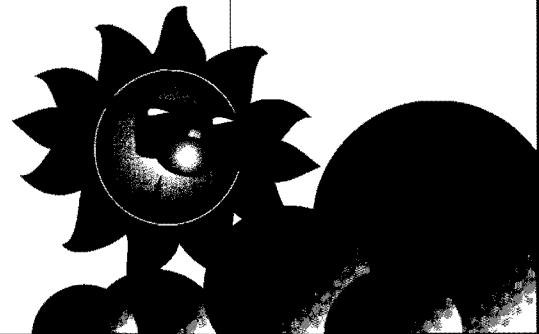
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1958: Near Green Island, NS, a sudden downdraft in cold weather led to an explosion in the oil stove onboard a trawler. The ship's afterdeck was engulfed in flames. Rescue efforts were hampered by dense fog, but fortunately, clouds of black smoke billowed from the blazing stern—a perfect signal for searchers. One passenger's feet were so numb he jabbed a fork into one of them and couldn't feel it.

29

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

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MAY 2013

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Sunday

Monday

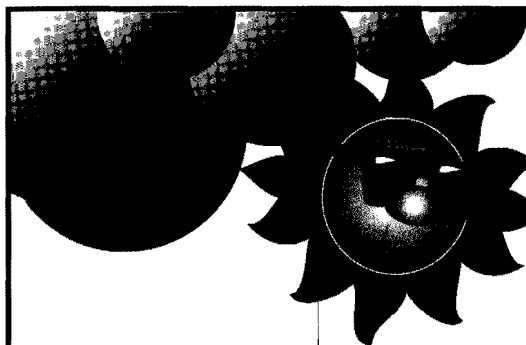
Tuesday

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Saturday

			<p>1984: A raging windstorm forced postponement of the ball game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Texas Rangers after 5 pitches and 2 outs. Winds of 100 km/h blew players out of their positions and swirled dirt around like BBs. The wind was especially tough on players wearing contact lenses, on vendors selling popcorn, and on umpires—from batters spitting into the air.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1930: Several citizens in southern Ontario reported seeing 2 large balls of red lightning travelling slowly across the eastern sky. In St. Thomas, a bolt of lightning hit a teenager as he was milking a cow. The force threw him against a stable wall, fracturing his hip. The pail of milk was also thrown into a stall; it landed right side up with scarcely a drop spilled.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>1956: A pocket-sized tornado, perhaps a dust devil, ripped shingles off a roof and broke a window in the eastern section of Vancouver, BC. The whirlwind lifted about 200 asphalt shingles from a roof, moved a wheelbarrow a couple of metres, and carried a piece of corrugated iron across a yard. The whirlwind also chased painters down from ladders, and a woman said she was "whipped off her feet."</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1971: Heavy rains led to an earth cave-in at St-Jean-Vianney, north of Quebec City, QC. The soil turned soft and mushy and became sludge. A bus, several cars, and 44 homes were swallowed up into a yawning gash 600 m wide and 30 m deep. Thirty-one villagers and 38 buildings had been swallowed. The survivors packed up and moved away.</p> <p>4</p>
<p>1986: A small tornado hit Lampman, SK, in the early hours of the morning. The twister lifted a large construction-office trailer off the ground, threw it over 3 trucks, and deposited it on a fence 30 m away. The trailer was then picked up again and tossed near its original location, crushing the back of a truck when it landed.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>6</p> <p>Fifty years ago what was deemed the most important day of the week to get the forecast right?</p> <p>1) Saturday 2) Sunday 3) Monday 4) Wednesday 5) Friday</p> <p><i>Answer on inside back cover</i></p>	<p>1960: The rain-swelled Mattagami River flooded a quarter of Timmins, ON, to more than 1 m deep. Some 600 residents were ordered from their homes. A mother of 8 refused to leave her 40 cows. Fish and game clubs donated 45 boats to rescue victims. Evacuees sheltered in halls and local armories. Log booms burst, and 30,000 logs surged downriver, threatening the bridge between Timmins and Mountjoy.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1946: A "black blizzard" raked the western Prairies. The 4-hour storm filled the atmosphere with tonnes of dirt. At 5,000 m, the dirt froze on ice on the wings of a Trans-Canada Airlines plane flying over the Rockies. Poor visibility forced motorists to use their headlights. Ironically, the black blizzard happened when many residents choose to clean or paint their homes.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>2006: A rare May tornado touched down for about 5 minutes on a Domain, MB, farm. The farmer arrived home to find chunks of his metal barn hanging in trees, a shed shredded, machinery toppled, and 2-by-4 boards pushed 1-m deep into the ground like javelins. A horse in a nearby corral was broadsided by a sheet of metal and an imprint of the sheet metal's ribs was left on its side.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1920: A storm with torrents of rain and freezing rain blew from the southwest across Conception Bay, NL. At Bell Island, the wind blew in the side of the courthouse. At Portugal Cove, it crushed the new mill house, tore two spires from the Methodist Church (hurling them some distance), and moved the Church of England schoolhouse out of line.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>11</p>
<p>2000: At Goderich, ON, the wind howled and the sky turned weird. During the first intermission of a theatrical performance at the local high school, officials decided to move the audience, cast, and crew into a hallway where there were no windows. They waited 40 minutes before getting the all-clear-of-the-tornado signal. Incidentally, the evening performance was <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>1816: From the diary of Parson Dibbles in Woodstock, NB: "Never, never," the parson laments, "was there such a spring." By May 12 it was snowing again, but the parson took a chance and planted his onions. It was a poor guess, for the next day there was 10 cm of snow on the ground.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>2007: A whirlwind destroyed a travel trailer left for safekeeping in Salisbury, NB. The air was calm; a split second later, the 7-m trailer was lifted, spun in mid-air, flipped end over end, and slammed to the ground. A nearby house shook and gravel hitting glass could be heard, but a trampoline sat unmolested. An hour before, a twister-like feature swirled dust and debris near a Moncton high school.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1936: When the ice dam on the Yukon River broke, a wall of water inundated buildings and felled several telegraph lines. At Coffee Creek, YT, only rooftops were visible in what was said to be the worst flood ever. On hearing the ice move, a man rescued his wife, who was confined to bed. He tied his boat close to his house, climbed on the roof, dropped a rope with a noose through the skylight, and hoisted her to safety.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1923: The weather conditions on the Labrador, NL, coast were the worst ever in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. At Cartwright, snow covered the houses so completely that only the chimney poked through. The storm trapped the school master in his house for 2 days, and a man walking overhead on snowshoes heard him tapping on the iron chimney to attract attention.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1967: Twister-like winds hit parts of Metro Toronto, stirring up dust and scattering debris. When the wind stirred up dust from a vacant lot, a woman grabbed her baby from a stroller, which then became airborne. As she lay on the ground clutching her infant, the wind flattened a toddler against a fence.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>2003: A strong twirling wind—described as a tornado but more likely a dust devil—blew through Marysville, ON, tearing clothes from clotheslines. In one yard, winds lifted a patio umbrella out of a table and carried it high over the house. In another yard, winds picked up a kids' swimming pool, which the owners never found. Winds scattered towels more than 3 streets away.</p> <p>18</p>

Last Quarter ☾

New Moon ●

2001: Drivers between Red Deer and Calgary, AB, faced an unusual blackout as 85 km/h winds from nowhere whipped topsoil off farmers' fields. The blinding wall of soil contributed to a 15-car pileup near Carstairs, about 70 km north of Calgary. Two hours later, conditions went from blackout to whiteout as a freak snowstorm pounded Calgary. The winds snapped lampposts, uprooted trees, and ripped out fences.

19

1996: A severe hail- and windstorm with possible tornadoes tore apart homes and barns, tossed around trailers, and flattened cars in the Niagara, ON, region. One tornado struck a drive-in theatre about to show the movie *Twister*. The storm tore the roof from a barn housing 20 prized vintage cars. A couple of cars were flattened by debris, and many were rife with holes, cracks, and smacked-up bodywork—most of it irreparable.

Victoria Day

20

1930: Never in the history of Truro, NB, had a sleigh been seen on the streets so late in the spring. Citizens had put their gardens in and settled down for a peaceful summer when a snowstorm of blizzard proportions suddenly hit. More than 10 cm of snow fell across the eastern portion of New Brunswick. Temperatures were around -1°C.

21

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

22

1893: A fierce wind-storm and possible tornado touched down in Montreal, QC, inflicting extensive damage. The storm carried off part of the roof from the Hotel St. Laurent, ripping it like it was cardboard. The windows of the Turkish bath suffered damage, and chimneys blew down. At the bank, the clerks saved their lives by rushing into the vault.

23

1975: In Carrot River, SK, a tornado tore off hospital awnings, scattered lumber, ripped shingles, blew out car windows, and lifted 2 cars, wedging 5-gallon pails under them. Near Moose Jaw, it sucked curtains between walls and a ceiling, razed buildings, damaged equipment, uprooted fence posts, and de-feathered chickens. A farmer said "the twister was just a mass of wood, shingles and dust."

24

1919: The *Cassandra*, carrying 400 passengers between Montreal, QC, and Glasgow, Scotland, struck an iceberg 300 km off Cape Race, NL, and had to turn back. Several plates below the waterline on the starboard side were crumpled by the low-lying berg. Passengers were escorted to the deck safely with only slight confusion. On approaching St. John's, NL, the boat was further stopped by heavy all-night fog.

25

Full Moon 

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

26

1997: Golfers from Environment Canada, including weather forecasters, teed off at Edmonton's Westridge Golf Club. The weather was perfect, though it had rained the previous day. As the last group stepped off the 18th hole, it started to pour. Said the head pro at Westridge: "I asked them what was going on, and one of them said matter-of-factly 'we've got pull.'"

27

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

28

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

29

1961: The most intense rainstorm ever in Canada—250 mm in less than 1 hour—occurred at Buffalo Gap, SK. Accompanied by heavy hail and strong winds, the torrents of water washed out roads, eroded fields, and even peeled bark from several large trees. The land was stripped clean of soil and vegetation. Strong winds moved an empty boxcar upgrade for 55 m.

30

1895: A cyclone struck Brokenhead, MB, carrying a 7-m-long log from a wall a distance of 20 m. The winds lifted a wagon and a hen with 14 chicks for 100 m, where they were stopped by a fence. In an extreme case of hyperbole, the *Manitoba Free Press* reported that winds lifted 12 chicks from a chicken coop and they had joined the Peary expedition to the North Pole.

31

Last Quarter 

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Monday

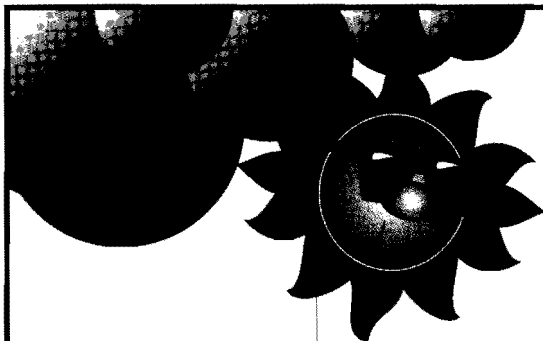
Tuesday

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Saturday



1996: About 400 passengers were stranded in Iqaluit, NWT (now Nunavut), when their jet, headed for Los Angeles from London, was damaged after an emergency landing with a sick passenger. Temperatures hovered near freezing, and the wind chill was -12°C . The rest of the passengers took refuge in the curling rink; the more adventurous—clad in the airline's plaid blankets—strolled the main street of Iqaluit to buy pizza.

2

1989: It was opening night at the new SkyDome in Toronto. Ontario Premier David Peterson pointed a laser beam skyward and opened the stadium's retractable roof—letting in a deluge of water from a rainstorm outside. Performers were drenched, and many of the 50,000 spectators abandoned their seats for shelter.

3

Weather Quiz

Most tornado deaths occur when:

- 1) roofs blow off
- 2) houses lift and drop
- 3) windows smash
- 4) walls collapse
- 5) victims get sucked up

Answer on inside back cover

4

1932: It didn't rain "cats and dogs" at Banff, AB, but it did rain wild ducks. During a brief heavy rainstorm, a night flight of wild ducks was forced down, and they mistook the illuminated asphalt and oiled roads for streams. Many birds crashed, breaking their necks. The next morning children reaped a harvest of dimes by collecting and selling the dead birds to a local taxidermist.

5

1888: A tornado touched down near Cornwall, ON, and skipped along to Montreal, QC. The losses included 3 deaths, dozens of injuries, and 500 flattened barns, homes, and outbuildings. Farm workers took shelter in a barn. Realizing that it was about to collapse, they fled—just as the roof flew off.

6

1933: A powerful wind and driving rainstorm played queer pranks in western Ontario. In Woodstock, a farmer was closing the barn's double-doors when the wind slammed them shut, cutting off his ear. Another resident found the linoleum from his kitchen in the next lot despite it having been beneath a heavy stove. The wind carried a veranda from one house to the front lawn of another.

7

1913: A farmer near Pangman, SK, described a spectacular wind- and hailstorm: "The cabin had been lifted upside down ... I rushed to where my stable and horses had been, they were gone ... After a week of riding I found my horses ... found the door and oatboxes from the stable, 3/4 of a mile away. My rifle, a 22 Savage repeater, was filled with paint."

8

World Environment Day

1834: The weather was unseasonably cold across eastern Canada. The ice on many ponds was "thick as a penny-piece." The frost was strong, and streets were white with snow. Swallows and other small birds perished in great numbers. One New Brunswick paper said: "one might imagine, that we had all, like so many Rip Van Winkles, slept the whole summer, and awaked in the month of November."

9

1993: A lightning strike near a home in Hammonds Plains, NS, cut a 5-m-long trench in the ground, throwing turf and tree roots onto a nearby road. The house suffered no damage, but lightning snapped a clothesline and damaged a bug zapper, startling the already shaken residents.

10

1939: The Royal train, bearing King George and Queen Elizabeth, was to stop briefly at St. John in Quebec's Eastern Townships on June 12. But on the 11th, a tornado tore through town, blowing roofs off houses and toppling trees. The town suddenly took on a sodden appearance, with most of the city's decorations shredded. Workers moved feverishly to replace the decorations and clear debris.

11

1892: For 5 minutes, Thunder Bay, ON, was in an uproar—loose lumber, boxes, and barrels flying everywhere—as a tornado struck. Winds knocked the framework for a new hotel 0.5 m out of plumb, tore down signs and awnings, blew out windows, dashed an old smokestack, and felled transmission poles. In the 3 churches holding services during the gale, consternation prevailed in the congregations.

12

1792: A painting of Captain Vancouver's historic landing on the West Coast shows a limp Royal Navy flag, sunshine, and a clear view of the North Shore mountaintops. In 1579, when Sir Francis Drake arrived, he encountered "thicke mists and most stinking fogges" and sailed home in disgust. If Vancouver had met with the same conditions, there might not be 2.5 million people in the Lower Mainland today.

13

1919: Alcock and Brown took off from St. John's, NL, on the first successful nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean, landing the next day at Clifton, Ireland. The weather at takeoff was 15°C and clear, with southwest winds at 32 km/h and 4/10 cloud cover.

14

1863: A lightning bolt entered through the window of a home in Morell, PE, and kindled a fire in the roof. It glanced the body of a young man sitting at the breakfast table and split his boots in several places, leaving him temporarily numb and paralyzed. Then passing up between the man and the table, it snatched his porridge spoon out of his hand and drove it against the ceiling.

15

New Moon



1923: Tornado winds snatched a child from her mother's arms near Ernfold, SK. The family was returning home from Chaplin when the tornado swept the girl from the horse buggy on the outskirts of Uren. The frantic parents could not find her in the inky darkness. Ten hours later a search party discovered the youngster asleep in a shack 3 km away.

16

Father's Day

First Quarter 

1946: A dark twisting cone reared up across the Detroit River and demolished or damaged 400 homes in Windsor, ON, and county. Seventeen persons perished; some were decapitated by flying debris. The tornado took down 150 barns and farm buildings and uprooted hundreds of orchard trees and full-grown woodlots.

17

1948: A Regina rainmaker put his "universcope" (rainmaker) into reverse to stop the rains prior to an RCMP band concert in Medicine Hat, AB. When the concert was over, he went to work and the rains returned. The nearby Redcliff rodeo committee persuaded him to lock up his machine so it would not rain on their rodeo. It had rained 8 of the 9 days since his arrival, ending a 3-week drought.

18

1978: A tornado struck Aubigny, MB. One town resident lost her freezer. It ended up in the basement of another house—without the meat. Another resident reported: "The last time I saw our bathroom [outhouse] it was going down the front street as fast as you please."

19

2004: One of the year's biggest fires was the Town Creek fire near Lillooet, BC. Steep inaccessible terrain made battling the fire difficult. Nearly 5,000 residents were on a 1-hour evacuation alert. Marijuana growers worked feverishly to protect their crops. Osoyoos reached a scorching 40.5°C, beating the previous daily high of 33.5°C. School officials cancelled final exams and the prom.

20

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

21

Summer Solstice 01:04 EDT

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

22

1913: Settlers gathered at the Crown Lands Office in Hearst, ON, to beat next day's rush filing claims for farms. About 10 p.m., one of the most severe thunderstorms ever in the North struck. Not one of the 13 waiting for land left the line.

23

Full Moon 

1912: Canada's deadliest twister, the Regina tornado, severely damaged or demolished 400 buildings. It took the city 2 years to completely rebuild.

30

Last Quarter 

1944: Two female golfers in Edmonton 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

1919: A sulphur-laden rain shower fell on Dawson, YT, and vicinity. The 30-minute downpour left pools and sidewalks streaked with a yellow substance. Chemists declared that it was sulphur, which was likely carried in the upper atmospheric currents after the eruption of an Indonesian volcano. Similar-coloured rain occurred at Eagle, Alaska, and in northern British Columbia.

25

1930: A storm burst upon Lumsden and Bonavista, NL. When the telephone rang at the O'Neil residence, Mrs. O'Neil took the receiver but fell to the floor after getting a shock. Her husband and his brother-in-law, James Clarke, revived her. When the phone rang again, Mrs. O'Neil told Clarke it was for him. It was his wife, so he warned her to hang up. Just then, lightning struck and Clarke dropped dead on the floor.

26

2004: In St. Croix, NB, a day of cold rain forced cancellation of events celebrating the 400th anniversary of the first French settlement in North America. Samuel de Champlain and French settlers sailed into the Bay of Fundy 400 years ago. During the ceremony, with soaking rains and 8-m tides, the water level quickly dropped, sending 60 people scurrying for boats to avoid being stranded.

27

1996: Repeated lightning strikes plagued residents of Yellowknife, NT, this summer. On this day, lightning hit a main digital transmission line, shutting down bank machines and damaging computer equipment. Public safety was at risk in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Pelly Bay as residents climbed on metal roofs to see lightning strike the area for the first time in 30 years.

28

1963: A remarkable 1-day snowfall of 111.8 cm occurred at Livingston Ranger Station, AB. For several years this stood as the greatest, all-time, 1-day snowfall ever recorded in Canada. The record was broken on January 17, 1974, at Lakelse, BC, and again on February 11, 1999, at Tahtsa Lake West, BC.

29

JULY 2013

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1985: An experienced parasailor died in a freak accident on a small lake about 100 km southeast of Calgary. Although the winds were calm at the time, a "mini-twister" no wider than 15 m, suddenly appeared and enveloped the victim. The twister carried him to a field a half-kilometre away. He struck a barbed wire fence before landing and died on impact.

1

Canada Day

2000: The Ontario Provincial Police gave out over 400 tickets in the province in a crackdown on dangerous driving. Many officers reported ingenious explanations for speeding and careless driving. When a woman on Highway 400 north of Toronto was asked why she was not wearing a seat belt, she replied, "I wanted to be less restricted in case a tornado touched down." She got the ticket.

2

2000: There is a certain irony in one of the driest places getting the greatest rainfall. In usually rain-sparse Vanguard, SK, a carwash-like downpour flooded the community of 200. About 375 mm fell in 8 hours, the greatest storm for that duration on the Canadian Prairies, and one of the largest rainfall intensities recorded in Canada. The flood carried away cattle herds and drowned deer and antelope.

3

1939: A man narrowly escaped death by tornado-like winds that raced through southern Manitoba. Wind, rain, and hail cut through much of Winnipeg. In the St. James district, the storm struck the Conklin Midway shows, turning the midway into a melee of flying canvas and gewgaws. The Ferris wheels were moved 2 m off their sites. An amusement attraction, The Globe of Death, was wrecked by the wind.

4

1937: The temperature hit 45°C at Midale and Yellow Grass, SK—the highest ever recorded in Canada. One area farmer spent the day in his Fordson tractor, ploughing a field. The tractor lacked fenders or a platform, so the farmer's feet, and his brand-new \$2 boots, rested on the transmission housing. When he climbed down, "the soles were fried right off."

5

1842: Weather observers had to dive for cover when bullets whizzed through the observatory at the University of Toronto, ON. In the 1840s, the university held its shooting matches on nearby grounds. Sir Henry Lefroy, the observatory's director, wrote a stiff note of protest to the university, claiming: "Yesterday afternoon 5 different discharges passed through the windows of the observatory."

6

1961: A diaper change may have saved the life of a 1-year-old boy when a small but savage tornado ripped through Vaughan Township north of Toronto, ON. The mother was attending the baby in his bedroom when she saw shingles fly by and heard the wind roar. The twister demolished a brick garage where the baby usually played. "If he'd been in there, he'd have been a goner," said his father.

7

1992: A Saskatoon, SK, mother had just finished explaining storms and hail to her 2 small boys, assuring them that there was nothing to be afraid of, when lightning struck less than a metre from where they stood. Splinters from the door frame cut one of the boy's legs and lightning blew off the doorbell. Said the mother, "They are never going to believe me now."

8

1846: A man from Cornwall, ON, dug a hole in his garden intending to plant an apple tree. Before he got around to finishing the task, a tornado carried an apple tree from Massena, NY, and dropped it into the hole. Further, the considerate wind blew all the earth, previously piled up, into the hole, thereby firmly planting the tree!

9

1998: A man and his 2 children near Charleston, NB, suffered minor injuries after a confirmed F2 tornado swept them and their mobile home more than 30 m away. The trailer first slid sideways off its blocks, then came to a rest. More blasts of wind picked it up. During one flip, the cast-iron wood stove became airborne and struck the owner in the head.

10

1932: A freak lightning bolt struck a gold mine near Rouyn, QC, detonating dynamite 60 m underground and killing 2 miners instantly. Either the lightning struck near 2 locked safety switches on the surface, jumped across, and detonated the dynamite, or it struck just inside the mineshaft below the safety switch. The men on the surface were not injured.

11

1908: A fire whipped by fierce winds swept through Fernie, BC, destroying more than 1,000 buildings. The heat was so intense it melted the steel wheels of ore cars where they stood. At least 10 people perished. The toll would have been greater had not coal miners skilled in disaster response calmly helped hundreds of potential victims escape by train just before the worst of the conflagration.

12

1911: Almost 300 people died and over 3,000 lost their homes when flames consumed the mining communities of South Porcupine, Cochrane, and Goldlands near Timmins, ON. Residents ran for a lake or river, some as their clothes burned; hundreds drowned, pushed into deep waters by the crush of later arrivals. A bank clerk spent the night on a lake in a canoe guarding the bank's cash with a loaded revolver.

13

1950: Regina's weather forecast office issued the first tornado warning in Canada, prompted by a tornado sighting by a pilot flying near Johnstone Lake, SK. Radio stations broadcast the warnings, sending citizens into a near panic. When the tornado didn't strike, 300 angry kids, who had been hustled home from the movie theatres as a precaution, wanted to get even with the weathermen.

14

Weather Quiz
On July 14, 1950, the weather office in Regina, SK, issued the first warning in Canada of this phenomenon:

15

- 1) humidex
- 2) dust devil
- 3) summer wind chill
- 4) tornado
- 5) El Niño

Answer on inside back cover

1996: Hailstones the size of fists bombarded Winnipeg, MB, and Calgary, AB, racking up close to \$300 million in property losses. In Manitoba, more than half the losses were for auto damage, making it the worst single disaster claim against the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation in its 25-year history. In Calgary, hail was so deep that children made "hailmen" and enjoyed some midsummer tobogganing.

16

1998: Lightning struck dozens of transformers in Nova Scotia, causing massive power outages. At a home in Dominion, lightning created a hole in a roof the size of a basketball and blew a section of the chimney into a neighbour's yard. It also engulfed the entire upstairs in flames. Although the house was on fire, the daughters didn't want to leave for fear of being struck by lightning.

17

1996: Torrential rains (up to 270 mm) led to flooding and mudslides in the Saguenay, QC, region from the 18th to the 21st, resulting in Canada's first billion-dollar natural disaster and the largest-ever overland deluge in Canada in the 20th century—equivalent to a 2-month flow over the Niagara Falls. The surge of water, rocks, trees, and mud killed 10 people and forced 12,000 residents from their homes.

18

2006: Blistering temperatures across Prince Edward Island, boosted by humidity, sent islanders scrambling for shade and prompted health officials to issue warnings about heat exhaustion. The hot, sticky weather incited brisk sales of fans, air conditioners, and anything else that could beat the heat. Retirement and nursing homes took extra precautions to ensure their residents stayed well.

19

1958: When rainfall over 60 mm near Mount Pearl, NL, eroded some roadbed, 2 girls waved a pair of red pajamas to flag down the incoming train. Earlier, the girls (the train engineer's daughter and the niece of a passenger) had phoned the chief dispatcher in St. John's, warning of potential washouts. He told them to flag down the train. The rail company dispatched a repair crew.

20

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

21

1993: A butcher near Charlottetown, PE, was hit by lightning while carving a piece of meat. The lightning bolt somehow entered the building, travelled through the electric saw he was using, passed through his body, and exited through the toes of his boots. Although the man experienced some momentary numbness, he was unharmed. The saw was still in working condition.

22

1905: Water was scarce in the Klondike, so the Yukon government and some mine owners hired a rainmaker from Los Angeles. If he summoned enough rainfall for a prosperous summer in the placer mining industry, he was to receive \$10,000; otherwise he would be paid only his expenses. His attempts failed. In the House of Commons, MPs condemned the "foolish performance" of the Yukon authorities.

23

1965: A tornado felled trees, damaged homes, levelled crops, and left fish swimming in a storm-created pond on the main street of Erieau, ON. Eyewitnesses saw a waterspout suck up the blue gills from a pond at the north edge of the village and dump them in the subdivision. Winds up to 130 km/h blew branches across roads.

24

1975: An enormous cleanup began at St-Bonaventure, QC, the day after a tornado demolished half the town, killing 4 and causing \$1 million damage. The cyclone destroyed 100 buildings and toppled the town's water tower.

25

1949: At about 6:00 p.m., a thunderstorm at Kirkland Lake, ON, tore out stakes from the Oailey Brothers' big circus tent. The heavy canvas collapsed just as the elephants were being led out. The animals stampeded, but an ex-elephant trainer corralled the huge beasts. The only damage was a few air holes in the tent roof. The circus manager said later that 5 baby elephants were still frightened.

26

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

27

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

28

1996: Wet cool weather meant that occupancy at Algonquin Park, ON, campsites was well below capacity. Park restaurants and laundromats, however, were doing a booming business; dryers were making huge profits. Apparently, campers were drying their soggy firewood in park dryers! Said one park official, "Some people are ignorant of the goals of the outdoor camping experience, and they have to be guided."

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.

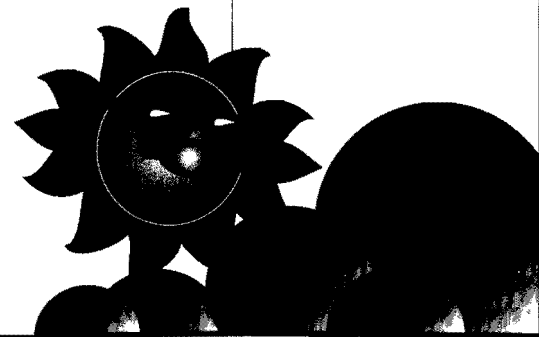
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1987: In 1 hour of rage and fury, a series of tornadoes struck Edmonton, killing 27, injuring more than 200, and leaving 400 homeless. The storm, the most destructive in Canadian history, toppled transmission towers and blew apart a giant oil tank. Damage was estimated at \$250 million.

31

Full Moon ○

Last Quarter ●



JULY

Farm buildings brace for a thunderstorm.

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AUGUST 2013

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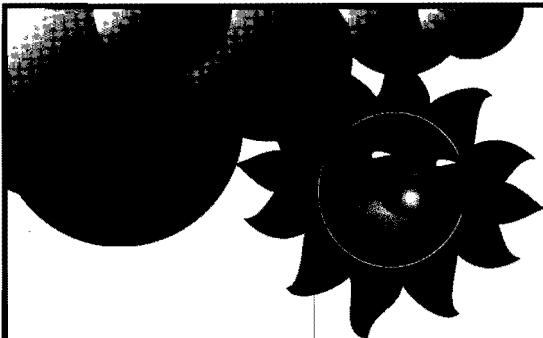
Tuesday

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Saturday



1921: It seemed to have rained frogs in Calgary, AB. Along 11th Avenue, the frogs were strewn thickly on the pavement. Residents were puzzled as to the source of the amphibians. Few believed they had come out of their hidden retreats to bathe in the shower, but there were no eyewitnesses. The first to discover their presence were cats, who found them as edible as fresh fish.

4

1859: Eyewitnesses described the tornado as the most terrific one ever seen on Prince Edward Island, tearing up trees and inflicting extensive property damage. The storm swamped several fishing vessels in the harbour and out to sea and drowned scores of people. A telegraphic dispatch was received at Charlottetown, PE, from New Brunswick giving notice of the storm 20 min. before it burst upon them.

5

Civic Holiday (most regions)

1911: In 1911 a twister hit Black Diamond, AB, picking up a little house with 3 people inside. Fortunately, the floor dropped out and settled to the ground, leaving the dazed occupants uninjured. What was left of the house and the family's belongings exploded into a mass of flying boards and rubble so high above the ground that a crew haying over the hill in Turner Valley could see it.

11

1931: Forest fires burned a mere 3 km west of Fernie, BC, as citizens stood by to defend their homes. Farther into the interior, 5 men abandoned their construction equipment to escape the inferno. They said wild animals fled the burning underbrush, either scorched or on fire. Bears, deer, cougars, and range cattle maimed by running over live embers ran desperately in front of the conflagration.

12

1879: A tornado at Bouctouche, NB, one of Canada's top-10 worst, killed 6, injured 10, and decimated 146 buildings, including the famous Bouctouche covered bridge. The twister crushed a mother to death, but spared the child in her arms. Oral tradition attributed the storm to a 19th-century sorcerer named Dollard. He had sprung from his grave in the woods and conjured the tornado.

6

New Moon ●

1995: Newfoundland wildlife officials in St. John's reported a missing moose. They were about to capture it when it wandered through some residential areas. When lightning knocked out lights, the moose escaped. Drizzle and fog patches hindered the search. In the morning, police asked residents to help. At last sighting, the moose was wearing a brown fur coat and antlers, and had a tranquilizer dart in its rump.

13

1979: A series of tornadoes, including 2 F4s, struck around Woodstock, ON, killing 3, injuring 130, and leaving 1,000 homeless. Winds up to 400 km/h destroyed or damaged over 600 homes and buildings. One man said that chickens flew past him like bullets. The storm also killed scores of livestock. Some cows ate insulation and then had to be destroyed. A dog named Ranger was tied up in his doghouse when the storm hit. When it subsided, he was still tied to an outside pole, but the doghouse was gone.

7

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

14

1979: When a violent thunderstorm hit Winnipeg, MB, the thumping hail may have brought on the premature birth of 2 St. Bernard litters. Heidi delivered a Canadian-record-breaking 22 puppies. (The Guinness World Record is 23.) But the storm likely caused the death of some of the puppies. In her zeal to protect them, Heidi dug a hole in the mud, pushed the pups in, and lay on top. Six suffocated.

1

1979: A deaf-mute couple could not hear the thunder and high winds preceding a tornado that smashed through Regina, SK, at about 6 p.m. The couple's young son motioned to his father to look out the window. Within seconds, the roof lifted, leaving several rooms exposed to wind and rain. The force sent the children flying. Debris—broken glass, pieces of trees, and loads of dirt—swirled around the family's possessions.

8

1971: Hurricane Beth quickly moved northeastward along the Atlantic Seaboard, slightly weakening as it made landfall near Copper Lake, NS. Halifax had record rainfall at 296 mm—greater than the deluge from Hurricane Hazel in 1954. The rain washed away several highways and bridges, damaged buildings, and inundated farmland. Total damage province-wide was \$5.1 million.

15

1975: With temperatures reaching the mid-30s and no air conditioning at the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, ON, theatre-goers were walking out in the middle of performances and musicians were having trouble keeping their instruments tuned. In a somewhat futile attempt to cool the theatre, the fire department was called in and sprayed 1,700 L of water on the roof.

2

1981: A newspaper report claimed that a lightning victim near London, ON, was saved by his religious neck chain. The victim was cast 2 m in the air. His clothes were shredded and his right running shoe was blown off.

9

Weather Quiz
Researchers have found there is more horn honking during:

16

- 1) rainy days
- 2) night
- 3) windy days
- 4) hot days
- 5) blowing snow

Answer on inside back cover

1985: After more than 380 mm of rain fell on Parkman, SK, 2 brothers made the best of a bad thing and went water-skiing on their wheat field.

3

1952: The Parliamentary Library, ON, damaged by water from fire hoses a week ago, suffered torrential rains that beat through holes in the roof made by firefighters, soaking an additional 4,000 volumes. Emergency crews of Boy Scouts, YMCA workers, and students from the University of Ottawa worked through the downpour to remove volumes still on the shelves. Public Works lost their battle to keep out the heavy rain.

10

1958: A fiery baby tornado, called a dust devil, roared out of a forest fire in British Columbia's Douglas Lake district. The inferno enveloped 2 firefighters in flames before hurling them into the air like flaming torches. The men later died from their burns.

17

1999: A tornado touched down in Pugwash, NS, ripping the dining room from a restaurant and sending it 12 m across a parking lot. The cook and manager went flying through the air. A worker at the Pugwash Visitors Centre noticed an increase in traffic after the storm. "People want to see the damage for themselves. Lots of people stop outside what's left of the Caboose Café, take a picture, and then jump back in their car."

18

2009: St. John's, NL, one of the wettest cities in Canada, was forced to declare a weeks' long water ban. This year was the first not to have a spring or summer month with more than 100 mm of rain since 2004. Winter snows were also less than normal and evaporation was greater—all leading to the lowest water supply in recent years.

19

Discovery Day (Yukon)

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.

20

Full Moon 

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

21

1916: Dynamite stored in a shack in Montreal, QC, blew to smithereens after lightning hit the shack. The ground shook violently, shattering windows and ripping roofs from houses. The district was in an uproar, men's shouts mingling with the screams of terrified women and children. A German invasion was feared, but police rushed to reassure the frightened citizenry that it had been lightning.

22

1936: A lightning bolt played an unkind prank on a collie owned by a resident near Burnt River, ON. The lightning hit the house chimney, ripped apart the rafters, bulged a metal ceiling, tore off plaster, then followed a telephone wire to the woodshed, where the owner was splitting wood—his dog at his side. The bolt then circled near the dog and flipped him on his back. The white dog was scorched a dark brown.

23

1873: A calamitous hurricane swept Cape Breton Island, NS, destroying 1,200 fishing vessels thousands of trees, and damaging countless bridges, breakwaters, wharves, and 900 buildings. The storm took 500 lives. Losses were high partly because the downed telegraph lines between Toronto, ON, and Halifax, NS, prevented storm warnings from getting through.

24

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

25

1883: A mighty volcanic eruption in Krakatoa, Indonesia, from the 26th to the 28th caused brilliant coloured sunrises and sunsets, unusually coloured suns and moons, and dustfall around the world, especially in western Canada, in the following months and years. The eruption destroyed most of the island and was heard up to 5,000 km away.

26

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

27

2006: The conductor of Regina's (SK) symphony orchestra claimed to have waved his arms as much to keep wasps away as to conduct the Mozart in the Meadow concert. Last winter's mild weather allowed more wasps than usual to burrow away in warm spots and survive the winter, and ideal warm-season weather let them develop and grow colonies. Several concert goers were stung by wasps.

28

1919: Fog and smoke from bush fires delayed authorities in trying to capture a fugitive near Abbotsford, BC. Occasionally the fog lifted, only to lower again. At daybreak, when the fog would soon disappear, the fugitive decided to make his break. Emerging from the bushes, he walked into the arms of police, just as the fog cleared. The fugitive was exhausted and cold, having lost his hat and coat.

29

1998: Members of Helio's Nudist Club near Tofield, AB, were enjoying the summer-long heat wave, going 24 hours without clothes. The only downer was the mosquitoes. Besides sunscreen, the sunworshippers used gallons of bug repellent.

30

2005: Remnants of Hurricane Katrina dumped up to 100 mm of rain on southern Ontario and Quebec, setting daily records at Ottawa and Montreal. Montreal escaped flooding as rain fell over many hours, but wind knocked a tree onto a car. In Kingston, ON, winds uprooted trees, tore down a power line, and damaged homes. Traffic crept through 1-m-deep water. Sidewalks and streets were submerged, swamping cars.

31

 Last Quarter 

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SEPTEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1953: Toronto, ON, was in the midst of its longest heat wave ever. Housewives escaped the kitchen by using hot plates connected to extension cords. At the Ford Motor Company in Windsor, some sections of the large assembly plant shut down early, but not in the foundry. A Hamilton merchant had a cooling thought—he displayed Christmas cards in the store window. Sales were brisk.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1876: At noon, the weather head office in Toronto, ON, ordered Maritime harbours and lighthouses to hoist storm drums. There were no signs of a storm, and quiet jokes were made about the forecast. By evening, the wind, accompanied by showers, grew into a gale, which by daylight was a fierce storm. Likely, this was the fledgling national weather service's first storm warning.</p> <p>2</p> <p>Labour Day</p>	<p>2009: A toddler wandered away from his family's campsite in the northern Yukon bush, home to grizzlies and black bears. It was dark and cool and rainy when the boy disappeared without a coat. He trailed after a dog, which stayed with him throughout his adventure. Twenty-five hours later, searchers found the boy and dog using an infrared sensor heat signal. The boy was allowed to keep his new friend.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1953: Neighbours and friends in London Township, ON, built a new barn to replace one smashed by a tornado in May. Hundreds were invited to try out the new plank flooring at an old-fashioned square dance. As the guests arrived, a second tornado blew in and knocked down the new structure, spreading twisted metal and splintered wood up to 2 km away.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>1881: Witnesses in London, ON, reported that by 4 p.m. "it was as dark as midnight, being quite impossible to see a yard ahead." Some fanatics declared that the world was ending, and others were certain the darkness was due to an approaching comet. The majority believed that forest fires were responsible. And they were right! The air was choked with smoke from fires in Michigan.</p> <p>5</p> <p>Rosh Hashanah New Moon ●</p>	<p>1939: A severe thunderstorm raged over St. Benoit, QC. During the loud storm, a road-making machine backfired several times. All this occurred 5 days after Nazi planes started bombing Poland. Word spread quickly among villagers that enemy planes were dropping bombs while on their way to raid Ottawa, ON. During the noisy storm, about 50 people rushed from their homes and spent up to 3 hours hiding in fields.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1991: A wild hailstorm moved across Calgary, AB, causing \$300 to \$400 million in damages—a record insurance loss for any single storm event in Canadian history. Companies flew in adjusters to handle nearly 80,000 property claims. The 30-minute storm split trees, flooded basements, and broke windows and siding. Raging sewer waters blew off manhole covers and plugged catch basins.</p> <p>7</p>
<p>1941: A man from Prince George, BC, was always sceptical about creatures falling from the sky. However, after a brisk downfall of mixed rain and hail, he discovered 6, 3-m long snakes and 2 huge grasshoppers, as well as some rainwater in an old washbasin tossed out in his backyard. Looking apprehensively at the sky, he surmised there was no place else the creatures could have come from.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1979: Tornado winds damaged grain bins at a farm south of Manor, SK. A farm worker took cover in a steel bin. The wind promptly lifted the structure and carried it over a fence. It bounced on the ground and landed about 50 m away. When asked what he thought of his experience, the man said, "The take-off wasn't too bad, but the landing was something else!"</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1982: A small tornado damaged a farm residence near Wilmot, PE. Two girls rushed to the basement for cover when the house started to shake. Their mother, who came home after the storm, said her frightened daughters thought it was the end of the world. After viewing the havoc left by the twister, the mother said to the girls, "Okay, now what really happened?"</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1995: A monster 29-m wave slammed into the QE II as it crossed the Atlantic. The wave—caused by the seas being whipped up by Hurricane Luis—hit the ship at 02:05 hours off the coast of Newfoundland. Maximum winds at the time were 210 km/h. At 29 m, the waves were the height of an 11-storey building! Luis tossed yachts and airplanes around like toys, trashed piers and shacks, and crumpled satellite dishes.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>1998: Balmly weather created carnage on central Manitoba highways near Narcisse. Snakes sunning themselves on busy highways were flattened by the thousands of motorists driving to see the famous snake pits in the area. Drivers ended up squashing more than 3,000 snakes under their car tires. A resident asked the province to temporarily reduce the speed limit in the area, but he was turned down.</p> <p>12</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1954: Hurricane Edna was responsible for 3 days of heavy rainfall, exceeding a total of 100 mm in northern New Brunswick. The storm swept away sawmills and covered bridges. Marooned cattle had to be rescued by boat or barge. Landslides blocked roads, and floods washed away telephone poles. Up to 10,000 cords of pulpwood broke loose and drifted into Chaleur Bay.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1996: Hurricane Hortense came ashore east of Sheet Harbour, NS. Near Ingonish Beach, a big wave picked up a car and put it on #6 green at Highland Links Golf Course. The driver decided to leave her vehicle and swim to safety. She grabbed onto a fallen birch tree, where she stayed for 4 hours until being rescued.</p> <p>14</p> <p>Yom Kippur</p>
<p>2002: At Komoka, ON, lightning shook an entire house. Battery-operated toys started up, just like in Toyland. The lightning charred and melted some toys and a stroller. A neighbour and the mother used any liquids they could find, including milk and juice, to douse the flames. The electrical energy from the lightning strike likely charged the air and the house contents with static electricity.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1990: A 4-year-old Halifax boy helped save his mother's life after a bolt of lightning bounced through a second-storey window and shocked her while she was on the telephone. He dragged his unconscious mom down the stairs by her ankles. Her injuries included burns around her rib cage, and inside her lungs and ears. Her hair fell out in clumps following the strike.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1879: A terrific rain- and windstorm accompanied by thunder and lightning passed over Montreal, QC. The strong wind caused extensive damage to property. In one case, the storm lifted a shed and slammed it down, demolishing it in the process. Twenty workers were inside the shed at the time, along with several horses and wagons. Strangely enough, only 2 of the men were injured slightly.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1984: Dense fog prevented Pope John Paul II from landing at Fort Simpson, NT. This deeply disappointed about 3,000 First Nations and Inuit who had been awaiting his arrival. However, true to his word, the Pope returned 3 years later on September 20, 1987, and celebrated mass with a brilliant rainbow serving as a backdrop.</p> <p>18</p>	<p>1846: A terrific hurricane struck Newfoundland and became known as the Great Gale of 1846. Many died or lost property during the storm. At Bay Bulls near St. John's, the storm loosened a boulder, which rolled down a cliff, killing 2 boys. It also damaged the lighthouse at Cape Spear. One of the buildings seemed to explode in the hurricane. The storm also destroyed several fish flakes, huts, and boats in various outposts.</p> <p>19</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p>2004: Moisture from the remains of Hurricane Ivan helped fuel another strong fall storm that hit Atlantic Canada, causing power outages and delaying ferry services. Strong winds churned up Sydney Harbour, cancelling the first Canadian docking of the <i>Queen Mary 2</i>. Seas in Cabot Strait reached from 5 to 8 m. As many as 20,000 customers on Cape Breton Island, NS, lost power at the height of the storm.</p> <p>20</p>	<p>2000: On the last day of summer, it snowed in Calgary, AB. Because it was the first storm of the season, the 15-cm whack of snow wrought havoc on city roads, causing more than 100 fender benders, 10 with minor injuries. Customers raided hardware stores for winter goods. Several Alberta locations registered record low temperatures for the date with temperatures dipping to -5°C.</p> <p>21</p>

1911: A group of scientists collecting samples in the Arctic suffered privations east of the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories. Temperatures were -8°C or lower. The expedition carried provisions for 2 days, but the trip took 15. They were forced to eat whale tongue, seal- and deerskins, sole leather, and the tough skin laces used on their snowshoes. They forced it all down with seal oil.

22

Autumnal Equinox 16:44 EDT

2003: Hurricane Juan destroyed up to 70% of the trees in Point Pleasant Park in Halifax, NS, leaving the park as it looked over a century ago and generating over 10,000 tonnes of wood chips and mulch, much of it infested with the brown spruce longhorn beetle. Juan also left the city without power for a week, cutting the planned 1-hour season opener of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* to a half hour.

29

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

23

2004: A cold front blew into Regina, SK, dropping temperatures 12 degrees in 3 hours. Snow flurries and ice pellets filled the air. At a high-school football game, cheerleaders dressed wisely, donning layers instead of skirts. One girl said she had on long underwear, leg warmers, two bunny hugs, a turtleneck, a body suit, black pants, and a toque. One thinly clad fan warmed himself by the washroom hair dryer.

30

1950: The Great Smoke Pall, fed by muskeg and forest fires in northern Alberta, spread across North America, darkening skies in eastern Canada and in Europe 2 days later. Before explanations were aired on radio, people guessed the noon-hour darkness was the result of an eclipse, a Russian smoke screen, a brewing storm, or the end of the world. Sun colour varied from pink to purple, blue, lavender, or yellow to grey-tan.

24

1999: More than 100,000 people in southwestern BC were without electricity after an overnight windstorm downed trees and power lines. One resident of the Victoria suburb of Saanich awoke after a limb from a large oak flew across the front yard and through the bedroom roof. The woman woke up with pieces of shingles, bark, and sawdust in her hair. She wasn't hurt.

25

1969: Thirteen people in the Road Runner Drive-in Restaurant south of Ingersoll, ON, escaped serious injury when a tornado blew in and demolished the building. Sections of roof were later found almost 2 km away. One patron said, "We began to get suspicious when the doors began opening and closing by themselves." Winds carried the restaurant's picnic tables across a highway into an open field.

26

Last Quarter 

Weather Quiz
Which name has been called into use most often for North Atlantic hurricanes?

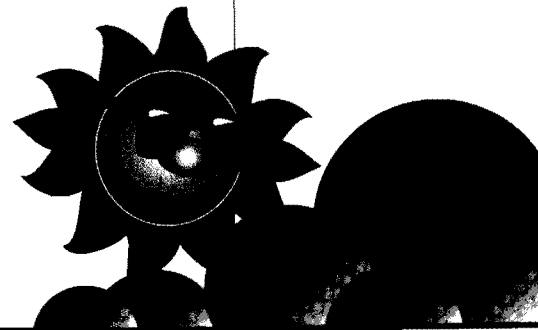
27

- 1) Anna/Ana
- 2) Arlene
- 3) Debbie/Debby
- 4) Edith
- 5) Florence

Answer on inside back cover

1941: During a rainstorm over Blackie, AB, black beetles, some 7 cm long, descended from the sky and began crawling everywhere. A local scientist identified the creatures as giant water beetles, capable of devouring frogs. He explained that a sudden change of temperature can create a vortex like a whirlwind that, if over water, sucks up the water and its contents (creatures, too) into the air.

28



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OCTOBER 2013

NOVEMBER

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		2006: Near Cayuga, ON, a 17-year-old girl was killed while test-piloting a drag-racing rocket car at more than 500 km/h. When she cut the engine and deployed the parachute braking device at the finish line, a wind gust caught the parachute and pulled the car to the concrete barrier. The vehicle rolled violently several times and the teenager was ejected and killed.	1	1999: Despite near-freezing temperatures, the Highlands Golf Club in Edmonton, AB, held its anti-freeze celebration with 70 golfers. Most participants bundled up in toques, mittens, winter coats, and long underwear to get through the game. Said one golf devotee, "Weather doesn't stop a real golfer." Some gave up, though, when the white stuff got too deep.	2	1922: It was unusually cold in Edmonton, AB, with below-freezing temperatures, but it was especially cold at the police station. Prisoners were wrapped in blankets. The station's basement and furnace room were stacked to the ceiling with cases and barrels of "real" beer. The police had been ordered not to light the furnace, lest it spoil the beer, which was evidence in a case.	3	1851: A storm known as the Yankee Gale lashed PEI, leaving behind ruined fishing vessels and the bodies of hundreds of men—mostly college students from New England—along the shore. Bodies were found lashed to the rigging, fastened to stumps of masts, or half-buried in sand. Islanders opened their homes to survivors, fed and clothed them, built coffins, and buried the dead.	4	1868: Lt. Saxby of the Royal Navy predicted that exactly 1 year from today a storm of marked severity and exceptionally high tides would occur. One year less a day later, the famous Saxby Gale struck western New Brunswick. The storm tore vessels from moorings, drove boats ashore, and badly damaged others. At Moncton, tides were 2 m above any previous record set there.	5		
									New Moon ●				
1893: A gale grounded the schooner <i>David Stewart</i> on the west side of Point Pelee, ON. Five men, a small boy, and a woman were clinging to the rigging, alive. On another vessel, 3 km out, there was no sign of life. It was impossible to rescue anyone, as a terrible sea was running.	6	1999: A Napanee, ON, man was lucky to be alive after lightning struck a furnace he was installing. He was standing on the third rung of an aluminum ladder when a bolt of lightning came through an upstairs window and hit the furnace. The shock didn't knock him unconscious, but it left him disoriented and woozy, and the tips of his fingers and toes ached.	7	2002: The Queen stopped in Winnipeg, MB, on her Golden Jubilee tour where the cool and blustery weather sparked great interest, especially back home in England. In the afternoon, the temperature hovered close to freezing and strong winds blew at 35 km/h, gusting to 50 km/h. On the Red River, the water taxi carrying the Royal Couple stalled and had to be towed to shore.	8	1785: The "Dark Days" occurred today in Montreal, QC, and for a week after. Fog persisted until 10:00 a.m., when wind cleared the air. Within 30 minutes, darkness succeeded but rain dispelled it. Near noon the dark stopped church services until candles were lit. At 2:00 and 4:30 p.m., perfect darkness held for a short time and candles were lit again. A storm followed each period of darkness, the rain filled with sulphur.	9	1989: Temperatures plunged from 18° to 4°C in just 10 minutes as a vicious windstorm swept through central Alberta, flipping trailers and airplanes, and felling trees and power lines. A woman was thrown into the sink with her head jammed inside a cupboard. Her 10 dogs flew upside-down through the air as the wind toppled her mobile home. Near Bassano, zero visibility from wind-blown dust caused a 14-vehicle pileup.	10	1935: An old-timer forecasted a long tough winter in Yukon because a squirrel occupying a birdhouse had put on a storm door of heavy cardboard such that it automatically opened with a south wind and closed with a north wind. Another squirrel was seen weaving a blanket of feathers from a grouse killed by a hawk.	11	1962: The remnants of Typhoon Freda struck the Pacific Northwest, causing 7 deaths and damages in excess of \$10 million. Howling winds reached a maximum sustained wind speed of 88 km/h with gusts of 140 km/h. In Victoria, the wind tore off the side of a house and lifted a fiberglass boat suspended from the ceiling and smashed it into the house next door!	12
									First Quarter ◐				
1958: Thick fog covered the football field in Victoria, BC. Sometime before the end of the third quarter, someone stole the goal posts. Officials suspended the match, and the fourth quarter was played at a later date. "I kept hearing footsteps," said one player. "Out of the fog comes a guy and he says, 'Hey, you got the ball?' I told him 'Nope,' so we both went looking for the game."	13	1989: Near Fort Erie, ON, a massive updraft blew a skydiver 450 m above a huge, lightning-filled, grey, storm cloud. Fearing he wouldn't be able to breathe at such a height, he cut his chute and free-fell 600 m before opening his second chute. After landing, he was dragged 60 m through a fence and some saplings and broke some of his bones.	14	1954: Hurricane Hazel killed 81 people and left 1,896 families homeless in the Toronto area. A farmer reported that 20 of his cows seemed drunk after the storm. Apparently, the cows came upon a feast of apples blown into a meadow by the storm's winds. After eating, they stumbled around and could hardly stand up. Their digestive juices work so fast that apple juice was fermented rapidly, making them drunk.	15	2010: Three days of rains totalling 60 mm ended an attempt by a group of Halifax, NS, soccer players to set a world record for the longest game ever played. After 17 hours of play, cramping became a problem for many of the 36 players after 3 hours of wet and cold. The Guinness World Record of 42 hours, 5 minutes, and 1 second was established in Qatar earlier in the year but in an indoor facility.	16	2007: An intense storm began to cross the centre of Vancouver Island, BC, bringing with it heavy rains and high winds—the leftovers of Tropical Storm Lingling. Vancouver received 66 mm of rain over 3 days, and wind gusts in excess of 40 km/h. The high winds seriously injured a woman who was struck when a tree snapped in half and fell on her in a parking lot.	17	2009: Seagulls and ducks swam on potato fields on Prince Edward Island as an extremely wet October continued to hamper the harvest, delaying it up to 10 days. Tractors, trucks, and harvesters were mired up to their axels in muck. Added to this, the morning frost meant that farmers could not get out to their fields until midday.	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, who they believed had brought the conditions with them when they arrived. Others theorized that the freak dark days resulted from forest fires, a volcanic eruption, or subterranean fires.	19

Weather Quiz

What is the only hurricane name to be retired twice?

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

Answer on inside back cover

20

1898: The steamer *Gelivera* was crossing the Atlantic in high seas. The waves smashed her starboard gig, breaking the lifeboat and gangway into pieces. Hailstones as large as ducks' eggs fell. The next day the sea flooded the wheelhouse, chart room, and cabins. The steamer ran so short of fuel that the crew burned 50 tonnes of sugar to generate enough steam to get to St. John's, NL.

21

1998: Thousands of spiders enveloped trees, buildings, and vehicles in the Blackburn area near Prince George, BC. They ranged in size from tiny young spiders to those almost as big as a loonie. They were in homes everywhere. The mild winter of 1997 meant that many spiders had survived, and the extra warmth in 1998 gave them a chance to reproduce at an unusual rate.

22

1943: The Germans set up a secret automatic weather station at the northern tip of Labrador to radio pressure, temperature, and wind data to U-boats prowling Atlantic shipping lanes.

23

1911: A snowslide killed a husband and his spouse and demolished their home west of Lake Atlin, YT. The man had just gone inside to assist his wife with preparing dinner when the slide struck, crushing their stone house to bits. When their bodies were recovered, the man still held a paring knife firmly in his grasp and the woman wore glasses that were unbroken.

24

1918: The *Princess Sophia* sank after grounding on Vanderbilt Reef off the British Columbia coast on the 23rd. High seas, low visibility, and 90 km/h winds prevented rescuers from reaching the ship. All 343 on board perished. The only survivor was an English setter, who swam ashore.

25

1895: An extensive prairie fire northwest of Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, was visible for several days. Where the fire started was uncertain—either by a thresher in the German settlement or on the First Nations reserve. The wildfires destroyed about 100 tonnes of hay, stables, and a horse at Egg Lake. Dense smoke forced a mail driver to turn back. Luckily, the season's 1st snowstorm subdued the fire.

26

Last Quarter 

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

27

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

28

1846: At about 6:00 a.m., during a snowstorm, there fell at Carleton, NB, near the residence of Mr. Tilton, a large shower of red angle worms. Thousands could be seen alive on top of the snow; they were from 10 to 12 cm long.

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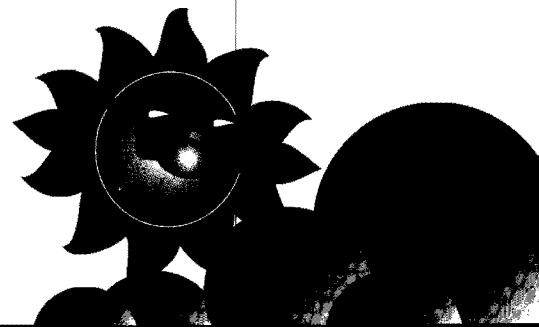
1836: A circus ship carrying several animals, including an elephant, left Saint John, NB, for Portland, ME. On the first day at sea, with a gale blowing, a fire broke out. Crew and passengers scrambled into a lifeboat. However, the animals refused to jump into the water. Burning embers finally sent the crazed elephant overboard and he landed directly on a second lifeboat, sinking the occupants and himself.

30

1921: Flying splinters and glass injured 30 people, some seriously, when 2 Montreal, QC, streetcars collided head-on in thick morning fog. The lead cars were crushed to a quarter of their size. The fog's thickness must have muffled the sound of the collision, for no one in the neighbourhood claimed to have heard it. Those who came to look upon huge piles of debris and corpses were disappointed.

31

Halloween



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NOVEMBER 2013

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Sunday

Monday

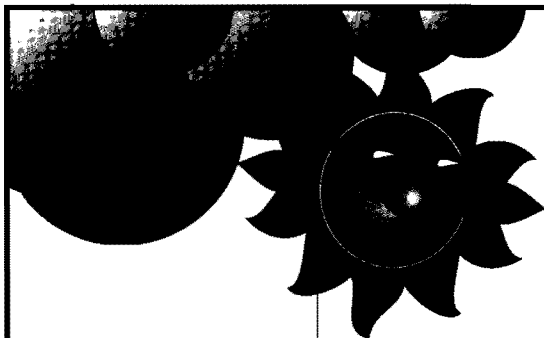
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1877: The *Rondeau News* reported about a fish shower near Harwich, ON: "I filled the pail [with fresh fish] ... and having deposited my burden returned to collect the remainder ... As to whether these now famous fishes fell 6 feet or 6,000, I know not. One thing I know, that they were scattered for about three-quarters of a mile." In the previous 2 days, rainfall totalled more than 15 mm.

Daylight Saving
Time Ends

New Moon ●

1978: As a motorist waited to enter a carwash in Regina, SK, strong gale-force winds blew down the wall of a neighbouring building scattering cinder blocks everywhere. Despite extensive damage to the car, the driver escaped uninjured. Wind gusts in the city exceeded 110 km/h.

Islamic New Year

1816: A British transport ship heading for England struck the outermost rocks of St. Shotts, NL, during a fierce storm. In a desperate attempt to get a rope ashore, the captain tied a line to the ship's dog and threw him overboard. The dog got ashore. The first mate, who had made it to land earlier in a lifeboat, secured the rope to the rocks. Thirty people made it to safety along the lifeline before the rope broke, but 200 drowned.

1916: In Alberta, Calgary's main natural-gas line broke when a CPR irrigation ditch washed out. It was -23°C and the rupture deprived residents of fuel and caused suffering. Hotels, stores, moving-picture houses, and churches shut down. Some families had to leave their homes and be taken to warmer quarters. Others used cars, baby carriages, wheelbarrows, and sleds to carry coal from coal yards.

1879: As a storm approached Newcastle, NB, winds increased to gale-force strength with heavy rain. The tide rose rapidly to almost the highest mark in memory. In the downtown, water filled cellars to the beams. Citizens floated rafts from sections of the sidewalk and wharves. The tide carried a house off its foundation and upstream some 150 m, where it settled into the mud.

2007: At about 8:30 a.m., the bank beneath a Campbell River, BC, hotel's parking lot slid into the Pacific Ocean, taking with it a woman's SUV. Her husband only had time to grab some fishing gear and a life preserver from it. For an hour, the family watched helplessly as huge waves tossed and mangled their vehicle. Then, incredibly, the ocean spit the crumpled machine onto the beach.

1945: A mother struggling with a small child and a baby in her arms waited for a streetcar in Winnipeg 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.

2007: Howling winds in Winnipeg, MB, sent stolen loot sailing into the air. Bank bandits were escaping when a dye pack in the loot bag exploded in a cloud of red ink. As they threw the bag away, the wind took it and scattered red-dye-splattered \$10-, \$20-, and \$50-bills. An eyewitness called them polite "Canadian" robbers—when one robber bumped into him, he said, "Excuse me, I'm sorry."

2002: Axl Rose was supposedly stuck in Los Angeles when bad weather made it impossible for his plane to take off. That's why he didn't show up in Vancouver, BC, for a Guns N' Roses concert. Furious fans rioted when the band failed to arrive. Foul weather in LA? Maybe! Winds were strong and it was the start of a 3-day storm that brought 59 mm of rain to downtown LA.

1901: A terrific gale raged along the Newfoundland coast, sinking several fishing craft and drowning numerous crew. The hulls of several steamers that were wrecked on the Cape Race peninsula were broken to pieces and the cargoes still on board were washed away. In a freak incident, one man who was working on the wreck of the Swedish steamer *Vera* was killed by a stone blown from a cliff.

2001: Someone broke into Environment Canada's radar dome near Duncan, BC, and stole \$300 worth of tools. The burglar had to drive a winding gravel road, jump 3 barbed-wire fences, cut through a chain-link fence, perform a Spiderman manoeuvre around a gate, climb a 24-m ladder, and drop through a trap door. As well, the dome emits enough radiation to heat up soft tissue and make eyes, ears, and testicles itchy.

All Saints' Day

1819: At around noon in Montreal, QC, the sky turned from a greenish tint to inky black, then sooty, soapy-suds rain fell. Later, a tremor shook the Island of Montreal. Frightened citizens made their way to the church. Suddenly, a lightning bolt struck the church spire, and it crashed to the ground. The next morning dawned bright and clear, as if nothing had happened.

1942: Nearly 42 cm of fresh snow, stiff winds, and temperatures of -25°C paralyzed Edmonton, AB. News of the storm knocked war coverage off the top of the front page. Three people died in the storm, 2 from overexertion and 1 in a car accident. One car managed to travel Jasper Avenue from the west end to the city centre. The most serious problem was the lack of coal, so it was rationed to prevent pipes from freezing.

2004: Despite flurries and sub-zero temperatures, hundreds of Shania Twain fans came to Timmins, ON, to be there when their idol opened the Shania Twain Centre. Local residents say it always rains or snows when Shania comes to town. Today, the temperature hovered at 0°C and it did a bit of both—rain and snow. Commenting the next day, Shania said: "I was just really proud, but I froze my butt off."

1813: A Great Lakes storm sank or wrecked 34 ships, drowning more than 270 seamen. A sailor from Hamilton, ON, read in a newspaper that his body had drifted ashore. He hurried home to find a coffin in his father's house and preparations being made for his funeral. Earlier, his father had claimed a body that bore every resemblance to his son, even to the tattooed initials and a remembered scar.

2003: Warm weather was to blame for the world's largest herd of caribou using a major Labrador highway for its annual migration from northern Quebec to the Labrador Sea. The herd caused unprecedented traffic tie-ups; some drivers waited 30 minutes or more for the caribou to pass. Because the ground still was not frozen, the caribou used the road as a ready alternative.

2000: The longest spell of dreary weather and sunless skies that residents of Atlantic Canada could remember finally ended. It was called the "Indian Summer that Never Was," "Great Grey Sky Episode," or "Cloudfest 2000." In Gander, NL, the sun didn't show itself for 481 consecutive hours. Doubly depressing was that it robbed Maritimers of perhaps the best time of the year—their glorious fall.

Full Moon 

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."

Last Quarter 

1929: A 7.2 earthquake off the Grand Banks, NL, triggered a 4.6-m tsunami, killing 27 people on the Burin Peninsula and leaving the harbour filled with cabbages from a surplus summer harvest. Potatoes, salt cod, herring, salmon, barrels of pork and beef, jams and pickles, and firewood were also lost, as were fishers' boats, nets, hooks, and salt. Nobody heard about the catastrophe for 4 days because of downed telegraph lines.

1950: Following Toronto's (ON) greatest 1-day November snowfall (30.5 cm), the temperature rose to 10°C , and it rained. The Grey Cup went ahead, despite the quagmire playing field at Varsity Stadium. The game was a farce. Kicks and fumbles stopped dead in the mud. When a player was tackled, he slid 6 or 8 m on his back as the crowd laughed.

1995: Saskatchewan hosted the (83rd) Grey Cup game for the first time. Weather possibilities included: a balmy high of 21.1°C —Regina's temperature on November 19, 1936—and below -30 , as in 1978, 1921, and 1903. The weather at kick-off was, apart from the wind, quite bearable—visibility 25 km, temperature 2°C , winds from the northwest at 37 km/h gusting to 63 km/h, and overcast.

1896: A blizzard, referred to by locals in southern Manitoba as Old Boreas, intensified, picking up freshly fallen snow and making the atmosphere as dense as fog. Tin roofs rose and fell, producing a rumbling noise like that of thunder. At one main intersection in Winnipeg, the wind lifted several people off their feet. Beyond the city, travel was out of the question because horses would not face the blast.

1999: A weather vane designed in the shape of a large molar, sitting atop the roof of a dental clinic in Yellowknife, NT, went missing. Earlier, witnesses had spotted children trying to climb the roof. The copper wind vane was one of a kind, made in California. No one filed a police report, but the public was asked to keep an eye out for the missing molar.

1862: Thick fog prevented the engineer on a passenger train from seeing that the draw on the Charlestown Bridge in Quebec, QC, was open. Although moving slowly, the engine-and-tender plunged into the river. The smoking car leaped forward, throwing passengers into a heap. Many escaped by jumping from the windows and swimming, while others grabbed planks thrown to them. At least 4 people died in the accident.

Weather Quiz
What is considered the most important advance in weather forecasting in the past 200 years?

- 1) satellite
- 2) Doppler radar
- 3) telegraph
- 4) super computer
- 5) upper air radiosonde

Answer on inside back cover

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

First Day of Chanukah

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

2006: A couple from Red Deer, AB, used weather data from Scarborough, ON, to pick their Lotto 6/49 numbers and took home \$14 million. The winners researched temperature, humidity, and snowfall on Lotto 6/49 draw nights in Scarborough, where the numbers are drawn. This time the weather paid off.

1797: When the HMS *La Tribune* ran aground near Herring Cove, NS, the captain ordered 44 cannons tossed overboard so the ship would float free with the rising tide. Unfortunately, he threw them over the lee side, and as the wind came up to gale force, the ship was battered against the guns. It sank in 20 m of frigid water as the men clung to the rigging. The seas were too high to mount a rescue, and 250 men perished.

1997: With the threat of a \$500 fine, the city of St. John's, NL, forbids people from depositing snow or ice on any street or sidewalk in such a way as to create a safety hazard. One elderly, very annoyed man in St. John's said, "Look around here. Where am I going to put it?" and then clearly expressed his mood by saying exactly what he wanted to do with it.

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

DECEMBER 2013

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

After a winter storm, residents clean up St. John's, NL / Paul Daly / The Canadian Press

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1962: The Grey Cup (Fog Bowl) took 2 days to play in Toronto, ON, because of dense fog and smoke. The fog was so thick by the middle of the first quarter that spectators in the upper stands could not see the opposite side of the field. It was one of the greyest Grey Cups ever but one of the finest ever played, and for the first time it was broadcast in the US.

1

1950: The ice-jammed, rampaging Bow River flooded 23 square blocks of Calgary, AB, to a depth of nearly 2 m, forcing 3,000 people to flee their homes. Firefighters and police manned boats in -30°C weather to rescue 100s of residents. Rescuers suffered frostbitten feet and hands; some filled their boots with hot water before wading through the flood waters.

2

New Moon ●

1869: Winter arrived early in Montreal, QC, with snow and a sudden drop in temperature. Small boys were having a ball launching their sleds down steep hills on city streets. Because roadways were impediments, the boys often brazenly used the sidewalks. A large number of horses went astray. Owners went to the pound to reclaim animals that had wandered off with their sleighs or were taken by boys for a joyride.

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

First Quarter ◐

1964: The Great Blizzard struck parts of the Prairies with heavy snow, winds of 90 km/h, and -34° temperatures. Over 1,000 livestock were lost and 3 people froze to death. In Red Deer, AB, the wind chill temperature approached -70. Chief Walking Eagle, a wily old weather prophet, was not surprised. He had predicted that the winter would be long and cold with deep snow and "one really bad blizzard."

15

1933: Twenty-three of 26 fishermen escaped from their burning schooner near Yarmouth, NS. Four told of a cruel prank of fate. They had been rowing for hours when suddenly a light in the distance flashed hope of rescue, but their hopes were shattered when, through the blinding snow, they recognized their own blazing schooner. Freezing and exhausted, they kept rowing, and some hours later they were safe.

16

2007: A snow blower duel in Levis, QC, between an elderly woman and her 43-year-old neighbour triggered a street fight. When the woman blew snow from her walk onto her neighbour's entrance, he blew the flakes right back. It was a real battle of the blowers. Finally, the combatants faced each other in the street, throwing punches. Another neighbour saw the commotion and called police.

3

1903: A *Calgary Herald* editorial complained that the British stereotyped Canada as a frigid country. Every sketch about Canada in British school books featured snow and ice. Statements like "milk in winter is sold in blocks like soap" must be purged to avoid the "libelling of the country's climate," said the editorial. It advised English publishers to visit Canada before revising their books.

10

1937: As the train engineer gave his last warning toot to call commercial men from a hotel in Hudson Bay Junction, MB, one passenger raced aboard carrying a white porcelain water jug from the hotel. He wasn't stealing it—his teeth were frozen in it! Obliging, the CNR trainmen thawed out the teeth and the man returned the water jug before the train departed.

17

Full Moon ◑

1902: Firefighters in Dawson, YT, fought a downtown fire at the Empire Hotel on one of the coldest days ever at -45°C. The fire's heat and the excitement of fighting helped to keep workers' body temperatures warm, though nose tips froze. In the bitter cold, fire hoses froze in 2 hours, even with water flowing at full pressure. Under no pressure, the water froze in minutes.

4

1944: At Toronto, ON, the 1-day snowfall of 48.3 cm was the greatest on record. Funerals were postponed, expectant mothers walked to hospitals, and there were no home deliveries of milk, ice, or fuel. A girl in Weston went to church on skis to be married. Symphony patrons showed up for a concert in snowsuits and boots instead of furs and jewels. The performers were The Trapp Family Singers, virtually unknown then.

11

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

18

1997: Former *X-Files* co-star David Duchovny complained on the *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* show from New York that he was fed up with Vancouver because it had "400 inches of rain a day." Duchovny's remark, intended as a joke, outraged British Columbia's tourist association and drew furious reaction from residents. He later apologized. (1997 was Vancouver's wettest year ever.)

5

Last Day of Chanukah

1985: In the worst air crash in Canada, an Arrow Airlines DC-8, after refuelling in Gander, NL, en route to Kentucky, crashed seconds after takeoff, killing 248 members of the US 101st Airborne Division and 8 crew. Just before the crash, weather observers reported light freezing drizzle and snow grains and fog. It was -4.2°C, and winds were light from the west.

12

1983: Vancouver, BC's, high and low temperatures were -5° and -13°C. Vehicles wouldn't start, and customers waited hours for taxi and towing services. Prairie folks chuckled when Vancouverites described this as "cold." It was -41°C at Coronation, AB, the coldest in 99 years. At Moosomin, SK, it was -38°C—so cold that several children got stuck to playground equipment and had to be thawed off.

19

1917: A ship collision set off the Halifax Explosion, felt and heard in Nova Scotia as far as 100 km away. The disaster killed 1,630 people, injured 9,000, and left 6,000 homeless. The next day a cruel blizzard struck, with 40.6 cm of snow and winds of 55 km/h.

6

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

1998: Winter finally blew into Toronto, ON. Only 4 cm of snow had fallen in the city this winter—the second-lowest total to date in 155 years of records. According to the Federation of Canadian Naturalists, the lack of snow discouraged their (nudist) members from pursuing their activities. Enthusiasts usually enjoyed rolling naked in the snow, then running into a sauna to warm up.

20

2005: Bad weather made the federal election campaign difficult for some. In Regina, SK, -30°C and strong winds halted the incumbent's door-to-door canvassing. No one wanted to open the door to take a brochure. That few lawn signs could be put in the frozen ground was a plus. Southern Ontario candidates grappled with poor driving conditions and signs buried by huge snowfalls or passing snowplows.

7

Weather Quiz
Which weather term is not used in Canada?

14

- 1) sleet
- 2) squall
- 3) snow pellets
- 4) snow grains
- 5) snow shower

Answer on inside back cover

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

21

Winter Solstice 12:11 EST

1989: It was so cold in Toronto, ON, that when the doorman at the posh King Edward Hotel used his whistle to hail a cab the metal whistle stuck to his lip. The temperature of -22.2°C that day felt more like -30° with the wind chill.

22

1996: A Russian AN-124 Antonov transport aircraft slid off the main runway and 150 m along the grass before sinking 1 m into mud at Canadian Forces Base Trenton, ON. There had been fog that night, and rain and snow on 20 of the past 23 days had saturated the ground. The plane was pulled from the mud 4 days later, after unloading and de-fuelling it to make it lighter.

23

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

24

Christmas Eve

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 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 Last Quarter

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

26

Boxing Day

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

27

1996: Residents of southwestern BC dug out from their Snow-storm of the Century. A record snowfall of 41 cm fell on the Vancouver area, while Victoria got 65 cm. Some residents who didn't own a shovel used Frisbees, dustpans, and even a wok, to shovel their way out of their snowbound houses. Canadian Forces soldiers were called out to help clear roads and search for hundreds of stranded motorists along the Fraser Valley.

28

1794: Peter Fidler, a Hudson's Bay Company employee and one of the first weather observers in Canada, recorded that Holland gin freezes solid at -17°F , English brandy at -25°F , and rum at -31°F (that's -27°C , -32°C , and -35°C , respectively).

29

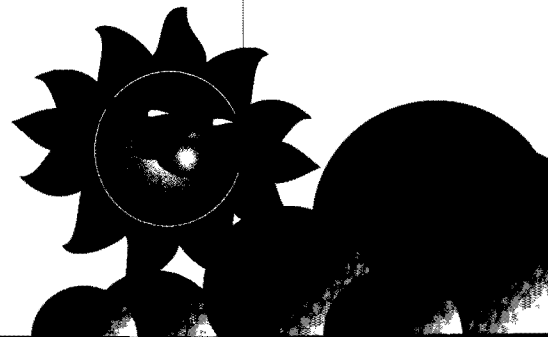
1997: Described as a "spring tide with attitude," high tides, combined with deep low-atmospheric pressure and strong winds, caused water to break through makeshift rock barriers near Fox Point, NS. The surge threw piles of seaweed into yards. The ugly mess frightened children to the point that they refused to leave their houses.

30

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

31

New Year's Eve



WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

January: 5) New Brunswick

February: 2) Wiaraton

March: 2) 2.5 years

April: 2) blond

May: 3) Monday

June: 4) walls collapse

July: 4) tornado

August: 4) hot days

September: 2) Arlene

October: 5) Hazel

November: 3) telegraph

December: 1) sleet