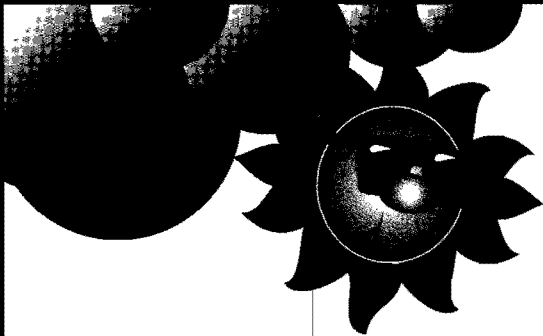


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JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1934: A northbound passenger train of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway crashed head-on into a freight train stalled by heavy snowdrifts near Tomiko, ON. The accident derailed 2 freight cars and an express and baggage car, badly damaged both engines, and injured 8 passengers. There was such dense fog that the crew of the passenger train failed to see the freight train.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2014: Just hours after a powerful blizzard, a fire at a terminal station left tens of thousands of Newfoundland Power customers in the dark. The province's Premier downplayed the severity of the outages, frustrating those affected. Eventually the Premier's words brought about her resignation.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>1950: A thousand men at 11 British Columbia sawmills were temporarily idled owing to wintry weather. Throughout the province, blizzards raged and temperatures plummeted to -50°C, coldest since 1909. Supplies of fuel were exhausted. Trucks toting liquor broke through snow-clogged roads 300 km north of Vancouver to the relief of 1,500 residents of the mining community of Barlorne.</p> <p>3</p>
<p>1996: Temperatures hit the lowest mark in 2 years in southern Ontario. Morning commuters facing temperatures of -25°C encountered frozen car doors and sputtering engines. At a Hamilton daycare, it was too cold to take the kids outside, so the staff filled a bin in the middle of the playroom with snow. The children donned snowsuits and played in the "snow box" with shovels and pails.</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2014: Two bald eagles died after a roof, heavy with snow and battered by wind, partially caved in at a wildlife hospital near Spruce View, AB, near Medicine Hat. Workers were able to rescue one adult male eagle that was found under the snow and collapsed lumber. He was shocked and hypothermic, but had no broken bones. Five other eagles in the enclosure were unhurt. None flew away.</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1940: Lowery Gardens, located 3 km west of Calgary along the Bow River, was covered with a deep layer of shell ice. A majority of residents fled when chilly waters started swirling through their homes, many of them with few, if any, of their belongings. Waters froze on the already ice-coated ground, adding to the thick surface coating.</p> <p>6</p>	<p>2014: Extreme cold—wind chill as low as -40—gripped large parts of Canada, causing travel chaos. Pearson Airport in Toronto, ON, was shut down as officials claimed it was unsafe for employees to be outside for long periods, and planes were waiting hours to get to a gate. Ripple effects of the delays in Toronto were felt across the country.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>2013: Shifting ice near Inukjuak, QC, on Hudson Bay trapped a dozen killer whales. The panicked and stressed whales attempted to come up to the surface all at once, gasping for air, but the breathing hole was too small for the number of whales. A cold snap 2 days before had frozen the bay much later than normal. People from around the world followed the sad tale through news reports and social media.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1878: A severe windstorm began striking Saint John, NB, knocking down several chimneys in the downtown. The winds blew lumber off the wharves and broke windows in buildings. Outside town, the storm blew away fences, trees, and signboards. In one incident, a 2-storey-high barn collapsed. A horse inside the building escaped uninjured when the owner succeeded in lifting up a portion of one side.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>2013: Widespread storm conditions, reminiscent of nasty blizzards of the past, persisted over the eastern portion of Newfoundland and Labrador for 3 days. In St. John's, residents were buried in waist-deep snow. The winds tore roofs from buildings and kept ferries tied up on shore. Snow-clearing crews removed 52 cm of snow from roadways only to have it blow back into 2-m drifts.</p> <p>10</p>
<p>Perihelion 02:00 EST</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>		<p>Epiphany</p>				
<p>2014: Moisture from rain, freezing rain, snow thrown by snow blowers, and temperatures varying by more than 25°C affected the coin slots of parking meters in Charlottetown, PE, causing the electronics to malfunction. More than 1/4 of all meters had ice problems. Vehicles parked at iced-up meters were not ticketed. The city began taking the meters away to dry them out.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>2013: Unseasonably mild air pushed into southern Ontario before travelling eastward. Daytime highs soared into the double digits, including a record 14.6°C in Toronto. Heavy spring-like rains meant that roofing companies were flooded with emergency calls. Under the spell of spring fever, many took the opportunity to wash cars, barbecue, or take down Christmas lights.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>2012: Melting permafrost is changing and shifting infrastructure in the North. A week of very cold weather froze water pipes in Iqaluit, NU. Twenty million litres of water surged from one broken main, shutting down schools, the hospital, workplaces, and government offices. Residents were asked to stay home, conserve as much water as possible, and boil drinking water.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1923: During a snowstorm, the fox ranches in and around Charlottetown, PE, became so heavily banked with snow that some 30 or 40 foxes walked out over the wire fences to freedom.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>2013: Prairie residents were clearly fed up with winter. People of all ages suffered broken limbs and worse while navigating the frozen terrain. And, sadly, the long harsh winter doubled the number of cases of animal neglect. Bitterly cold temperatures played a part in setting a new provincial record for power usage as residents spent 10% more on energy to stay warm and comfortable.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1911: A fierce winter storm in the west tied up trains. Everything came to a standstill for almost a week. At Fernie, BC, and Calgary, AB, blinding snow was whipped by winds at 100 km/h. Rotaries, shovellers, and snowploughs were kept busy along the Canadian Pacific Railway. A mother and her 12-year son froze to death only 50 m from their home.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1956: Better late than never! Winter had come early to eastern King's County, PE, thus a prolonged January thaw offered a welcome respite. Farmers finally harvested fields of turnips, covered for 2 months with snow. They also took advantage of the warmth to finish their fall furrowing.</p> <p>17</p>

1921: Across Montreal, people were too cold, with temperatures hovering around  $-28^{\circ}\text{C}$ , to wait for streetcars. Plumbers were kept busy repairing frozen and burst water pipes—one home had no less than 3 separate bursts. The ice companies were jubilant over the prospects of a splendid ice harvest. Over 1,000 men were employed clearing the sidewalks and roads at \$3.75 for 10 hours of work.

18

1949: Ontario reeled in the aftermath of a ripping gale that packed winds of 135 km/h. In downtown Windsor, the Medical Arts Building lost its roof. At Chatham, the storm levelled a cement-block garage. Stratford reported 40 telegraph poles down. In Woodstock, police were kept busy on the main street protecting stores, including the government liquor store, with broken windows.

19

2013: An unusual chill settled over much of Quebec, with temperatures dipping as low as  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The lowest wind chill was  $-51$  at Lac-Saint-Jean/Normandin. Power consumption hit a historic peak during the deep freeze, with Hydro-Québec asking the public to conserve energy and doing its own part by shutting off the lights powering its iconic *Q* logo at its headquarters in Montreal.

20

2002: Ice-cold weather finally arrived over the Prairies. At Key Lake, SK, the temperature dipped to  $-52^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and the wind chill in Churchill, MB, was  $-60$ . In Edmonton, AB, staff at a drop-in shelter checked every 2 hours to make sure no one had fallen asleep at their door. One homeless man said that he headed to the shelter when the temperatures dropped to “the killing lows.”

21

2013: An upper ridge of warm air over the Pacific coast had trapped cool moist air at the surface, creating a spell of foggy, misty weather since January 7. At Vancouver, BC, there were 18 fog days in January, 153 hours with visibility below 10 km. A string of 7 consecutive days with fog occurred between January 18 and 24.

22

1862: Old-timers along the Pacific coast said that winter had never been so cold. There were tales of suffering and death among people and animals. Harrison River froze over from mouth to rapids, something the aboriginal peoples had never seen before. The Fraser froze over from Chilliwack down. The people of Douglas, BC, sleighed on the lake with 4-horse sleighs.

23

1959: A storm dumped 5 cm of snow on Toronto, ON. Soon, 5 city hospitals reported a combined total of 93 persons treated in 8 hours for wrist and ankle fractures from slips and falls. Intersections became treacherous with glare ice covered by snow. Streets with even the slightest grade became impassable. Bus and streetcar trips took twice as long.

24

2013: A snow squall over Lake Ontario pushed onshore in the Oshawa-to-Brighton area. The ensuing near-zero visibility was a contributing factor in a 7D-vehicle collision that occurred on Highway 401, resulting in 5 injuries. Cars were left sideways and upside down, closing all west- and eastbound lanes.

25

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

26

1997: Two massive landslides entered the Chilliwack River, pushing a 2-m wave upstream and turning the lower river into a “murky, muddy mess.” The whole side of the mountain started moving in slow motion. The mudslide created loud noises with trees cracking and crunching. When the slide stopped, there was a bizarre scene with trees sticking out like a pack of toothpicks mixed with mud.

27

1983: A howling 110-km/h gale lashed the coast of Nova Scotia, paralyzing shipping, and, in several coastal towns, destroying scores of small boats and carrying away wharves and tonnes of fishing gear and fish houses. Waves exceeded 15 m. At Chebucto Head, a monster wave flooded the engine room and stalled the machinery of the great foghorn that had been warning mariners for decades.

28

2013: Winds of close to 100 km/h blacked out 100,000 Hydro-Québec customers, blew vehicles over on Highway 40, and closed the highway between Joliette and Mascouche, QC. They also postponed rescue efforts at the L'Épiphanie quarry where 2 missing truck drivers were buried following a series of landslides.

29

Weather Quiz  
The Earth's average temperature is  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Without an atmosphere the average temperature would be:

30

- 1) Winnipeg's average January temperature
- 2) Vancouver's July temperature
- 3) Toronto's annual average temperature
- 4) Halifax's January average
- 5) North Pole's average July temperature

Answer on inside back cover

2013: Charlottetown, PE, broke a record when temperatures soared to  $11.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The city also set a near record for the least amount of snow in January—a mere 15 cm. In Nova Scotia, the sudden warmth forced major ski hills to close and backyard ice rinks to melt away. High winds in excess of 100 km/h blew down construction scaffolding in Halifax, NS, and tore pieces off roofs in Saint John, NB.

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# FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1**  
2011: Stormy winters can cause headaches for public services such as the Canadian Blood Services. A week of storms in New Brunswick featuring 50 cm of snow and vicious winds brought the cancellation of blood-donor clinics. Clinic closures in Saint John and Moncton meant the loss of hundreds of potential blood donations that could not be made up.

**2**  
1976: One of the worst storms ever to hit the Bay of Fundy pummelled southwest New Brunswick and northwest Nova Scotia, tossing marine life and boats ashore. The bulk of the damage was caused by a monstrous storm surge. In Saint John, NB, winds of up to 187 km/h left terrified pedestrians hanging desperately onto trees to avoid being blown away.

Groundhog Day

**3**  
1911: John Patterson, a physicist with the Meteorological Service of Canada, made the first test of the temperature of the upper atmosphere. The instrument and balloon he used were found 138 km northeast of Toronto and mailed back to head office for analysis. Until the advent of radiosondes 25 years later, over 500 of these research flights were made from different sites.

Full Moon 

**4**  
2013: A storm south of Nova Scotia intensified as it passed east of Cape Breton, bringing an assortment of messy precipitation and high winds. Snowfall totalled 30 cm, with as much as 50 cm in the Cobequid Hills. The weather forced the cancellation of community events, closed schools and stores, and halted flights and ferry services. The strongest winds were 164 km/h in Woods Harbour, NS.

**5**  
1910: An epidemic of intestinal gripe swept Haileybury, ON. Officials blamed the sunshiny weather and thawing over 3 weeks for the sickness. The symptoms were "headache and a severe purging of the lower intestines." Physicians worried that if unchecked it would lead to typhoid fever. It was said that the return of seasonably cold, steady weather would check the disease.

**6**  
1921: After a 4-day blizzard, Newfoundland began to beat back the worst snow siege in 30 years. The foul weather forced the suspension of railroad, steamer, and highway transportation. The first defence from St. John's against the storm was made by a whippet tank captured by Newfoundlanders in the war. It was put to work crunching down snowbanks on the city's main thoroughfare.

**7**  
1996: Sometimes good can come from the bitter cold and unending snows. In the BC interior, RCMP claimed that motorists had learned to cope with the winter's heavy snowfall and that the number of accidents was about normal. They also added that "there's hardly been any crime at all, because the dirt bags just don't like the cold."

**8**  
2013: Over Atlantic Canada, a storm, energized by warm Gulf Stream waters, turned into a powerful nor'easter. At one time on the weekend, it was snowing across the entire Maritimes. Nova Scotia got the worst winds, upward of 164 km/h at Cape Sable Island. A storm surge at Shelburne, NS, was the biggest in 40 years. Snowfall extremes were 66 cm at Debert and 50 cm in Greenwood.

**9**  
1947: Clear weather prevailed across the Prairies in the wake of 15 blizzards in 6 weeks. Scores of communities ran out of food and fuel. Flour mills and meat-packing plants faced shutdowns because of scanty deliveries. The situation in Moose Jaw, SK, was described as desperate with coal inventories exhausted. Churches and public buildings were shuttered to conserve fuel.

Family Day (BC)

**10**  
1959: Ontario chiseled its way out of a 7-mm sheath of ice. In downtown Toronto, police requested that workers be sent home early to lessen the rush-hour load, but very few people heeded them. In the Lake Huron-Georgian Bay area a heavy bulldozer took 6 hours to plough a township road. Dairy farmers resorted to their own separating—saving the cream and feeding the milk to stock.

**11**  
1869: Snow was falling heavily in Ottawa as Patrick Whelan, convicted of the murder of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, was executed on the gallows before a huge crowd. This was the last public execution in Canada.

**12**  
1911: A fierce gale near Vancouver, BC, with wind gusts exceeding 100 km/h, drove waves against the shore of Ross Bay. The waves washed out gravestones and carried coffins out to sea. The cemetery caretaker had to dig up exposed coffins and move them to a secure location. Some of the coffins held the remains of smallpox victims. No one was willing to help the caretaker in his work.

Last Quarter 

**13**  
1896: A most peculiar thing happened—the great Niagara Falls practically ran dry. The river dropped until no more than a small stream of water passed over the brink of the American Falls. One could walk out on the river bar at the Horseshoe for fully 30 m. Apparently, a brisk west wind had driven the ice down Lake Erie to the head of the river, forcing the waters up the lake.

**14**  
2012: This winter ranked high on the list for lack of Great Lakes ice with just 5% of lake waters ice-covered. The Great Lakes basin experienced its second warmest winter in 66 years. During the winter of 2005–2006, there had been even less ice. Typically, during the second week in February, the Great Lakes are around 30% ice-covered.

Valentine's Day

**15**  
1946: Warned by a neighbour about the buildup of pack ice on the LaHave River, a couple and their 6 children from Bridgewater, NS, fled to higher ground just in time. Ten minutes later the ice front tore the kitchen off their home and destroyed the frail building. Earlier, heavy rains and high winds had released an ice jam just above their home.

**16**  
1861: A shocking accident happened on the Grand Trunk Railway near Rivière-Québec, QC. Snow had drifted into a cutting to a depth of 6 m and 4 men were employed to clear it away. A train, which they evidently had not heard, owing probably to the storm, slammed into them and horribly mangled their bodies.

**17**  
2013: Winds were gusty and strong, approaching 160 km/h, in western Cape Breton Island. Turbulent seas off Nova Scotia created angry 10-metre waves. In the midst of hurricane-force winds and zero visibility, the *Miss Ally* from Woods Harbour, NS, was lost with her 5-member crew of young fishermen. Extreme weather severely hampered the massive search-and-rescue efforts.

**18**  
1922: The temperature in Halifax broke a record for quick change—over 32°C within a day. The severe cold and the absence of any wind led to freeze-up over the harbour to about 5 cm thick. The cold also led to frostbite—ears, noses, fingers, and toes. Churches were especially critical of the telephone company for having men working on Sunday.

**19**  
1979: More than 200,000 attended Ottawa's inaugural Winterlude in spite of the record cold. Leather facemasks and balaclavas were fashionable at the 13th Canadian Ski Marathon in Gatineau, QC—its coldest outing to date. Fifteen hundred skiers suffered frostbite or hypothermia. Of 3,723 skiers on the 2-day 160-km race, only 86 finished.

**20**  
1999: Weeks of see-sawing temperatures and unusually high rainfall challenged organizers of Canada's Winter Games in Corner Brook, NF, to make or find snow and ice for the 5 outdoor sports. The local fish plant provided up to 30 tonnes of snow a day when necessary. Also, more than 100 army reservists were on hand to move snow from nearby wooded areas.

**21**  
Weather Quiz  
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, has the coldest winter among national capitals. Where is the second coldest?

- 1) Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2) Moscow, Russia
- 3) Astana, Kazakhstan
- 4) Omsk, Siberia
- 5) Ottawa, Canada

Answer on inside back cover



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# MARCH 2015

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1880: Snow fell over the Nicola Valley in BC to a depth of 15 cm. At Douglas Lake, the temperature was -26 °C. Cattle and sheep perished at the rate of 100 head per day. Ranchers had little hay and no grain to save their starving animals. The aboriginals lost nearly all their horses.

1

2013: A storm across the southern Prairies shut down highways due to drifting snow, limited visibility, and icy roads. In Calgary, winds peaked close to 100 km/h and the storm dumped 27 cm of snow before barreling into Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In the western Red River Valley at Miami (no, that is not a typo), 56 cm of snow fell in 24 hours. Drifts were piled up to second-storey bedroom windows.

2

1904: After an intense thaw, a spring thunderstorm raged across Ontario. The thaw and heavy rain swamped roads, flooded cellars, and swelled rivers. Lightning struck Ontario's Parliament Building, leaving a smell of smoke in the corridors. In the telegraph room, flames blackened the walls and tables, counters, and wainscoting; only charred equipment remained.

3

1933: The first documented upper air balloon in Canada was released at Coppermine (Kugluktuk), NT, at 4:00 pm local time during the second International Polar Year (1932-33). The temperature at release was -27°C and dropped to a minimum of -48°C at approximately 9 km before the balloon reached a final height of 12 km in the stratosphere.

4

2011: A Fredericton resident found his 1/4-tonne pickup truck flattened under his snow-laden, collapsed carport roof. Prince Edward Island experienced several barn collapses and the death of several sheep. Members of the Alorton (PEI) Baptist Church rushed to the aid of a neighbouring farmer, successfully freeing hundreds of trapped animals.

5

1910: In Haileybury, ON, a deluge of warm rain thoroughly soaked the ground and ate away at snowbanks. Water covered the ice race track forcing race cancellations for several days. During the storm, power was lost when a main hydro pole short-circuited owing to a coating of ice and water. Power was interrupted at churches, private residences, and hotels.

6

1949: A small snowslide narrowly avoided killing a 1-year-old child at Sinclair Mills, BC, when accumulated snow and ice on a neighbouring house gave way in warmer weather. The baby was sleeping in the sun near a neighbour's house when the slide came crashing down on him, demolishing his sleigh beyond repair but miraculously sparing the small child.

7

Full Moon ○

2005: A 2½-year-old black cat called Mr. Mudpie rallied from a severe bout of hypothermia. A few weeks earlier, the Guelph, ON, Humane Society had found the cat frozen in a mud puddle. Near death, he was too weak to move, there were signs of frostbite on the tips of his ears and a scab on his nose, and fur was missing from the bottoms of his front feet.

8

1904: During a fierce storm that raged over the eastern Prairies, a young convict scaled the walls of the Stony Mountain Penitentiary and disappeared in the blizzard. Snowfall amounted to 20 cm with temperatures dipping to -23°C. The prison guards quickly scoured the region, in hopes that they would be able to capture the criminal before he disappeared altogether—no such luck.

9

1892: In Ottawa, heavy, wet snow covered wires and tree branches to a thickness of 75 mm, forming a tremendous weight that brought down wires and poles. From one end of Rideau Street to the other, new telegraph posts bearing hundreds of telephone wires were snapped off and splintered like matches. In some cases, large pieces of timber dangled above frightened pedestrians and smashed into windows.

10

1901: The combination of snow, rain, and ice made it impossible to operate new rotary ploughs along the rail track in Montreal. The ice formed in the grooves of the rails in such a manner that it had to be dug out by pick and crowbar one foot at a time. Four hundred men, including motormen and conductors, were pressed to clear the 200 km of track.

11

1928: Nine soldiers had a narrow escape when they were buried under an avalanche of snow while clearing the sidewalks of the Governor General's residence at the Quebec Citadel. Four men jumped clear, but the others were buried under 3 m of snow. Minutes after the accident, her Excellency Viscountess Willingdon arrived at the Citadel and expressed deep concern for the safety of the men.

12

1993: Portions of eastern North America were paralyzed by a storm. In Canada, hardest hit were eastern Ontario, southern Quebec, and the Maritimes, where hurricane-force winds caused blizzards. The wind at Grand Etang, Cape Breton Island, NS, reached 211 km/h. Wind-driven snow followed by heavy rains caused extensive flooding and power outages and cancelled flights and ferry crossings.

13

1913: Heavy fog settled over Montreal, QC, around the dinner hour, becoming denser throughout the night. It only added to the misery of pedestrians, who had already endured melting snow, rain, and the attendant deluge of mud. In the thick fog, streetcar motormen could not see 5 m in front of their cars, creating many close calls along the tracks as trolleys appeared from nowhere.

14

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Last Quarter ◐

1929: Residents of Cayuga, ON, near the Grand River faced the worst flooding ever when an ice jam caused water to rise 4 m above normal. Men drove through the ice-infested flood waters with a team and wagon to rescue an aged invalid. Waters rose to the lower floors of some homes, and filled many cellars to the joists. Farmers lost stored vegetables and fruits, including potatoes and apples.

15

1920: A miniature cyclone raised half the roof off an ice house in Mechanicsville near Ottawa, ON. It was carried a block away over a small house before flying planks tore the corner off another house, endangering the lives of 3 children who were asleep. Winds brought down plaster and interior fixtures all about them, but they miraculously escaped injury.

16

2014: A strong low-pressure system blew snow into southern reaches of Saskatchewan and Manitoba on St. Patrick's Day. Coronach, SK, got 32 cm of snow. Behind the storm, cold arctic air plunged temperatures to -28°C. Winnipeg got a one-two punch of heavy snow followed by -30 wind chills. The wicked weather prompted the closure of roads, schools, and cemeteries.

17

1999: In Vancouver, it was said that "if it isn't the worst winter on record, it's awful close." From November to March, it was the second wettest winter on record since 1937, with 1,018 mm of precipitation. Vancouverites also experienced record-low sunshine for winter. Further, since November 1 there were 16 days when winds gusted to 60 km/h or more, just 3 shy of the record.

18

2013: During the week, a storm dumped 20 to 35 cm of snow over southern Quebec. Following the late-winter blast, strong northwesterly winds over open water generated snow squalls that left more than 50 cm of "sea snow" over parts of the north shore of the Gaspé Peninsula.

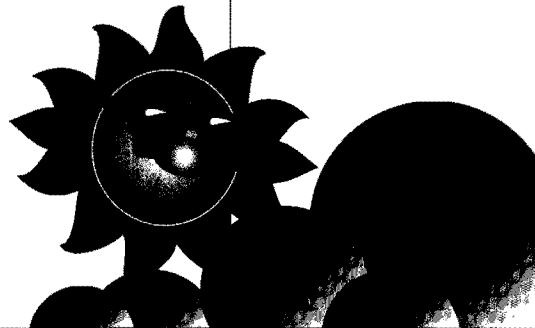
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1947: The bodies of a mother and her 2 children were recovered from the floodwaters of the Red Deer River; one was still missing. The day before, the family had moved into a shack 70 m from the river. Had they stayed in their home and not entered the flooded ravine they might have been safe. Searching was difficult because the slushy water contained blocks of ice weighing 150 kg.

20

2013: After more than half a year of tough winter weather, Prairie residents were fed up. The first day of spring was the start of over 30 days of below-normal temperatures. Also on that day, snow on the ground was at record or near-record depths: Fort McMurray, AB, 51 cm; Peace River, AB, 33 cm; Regina, SK, 107 cm; Weyburn, SK, 32 cm; Brandon, MB, 77 cm; and Winnipeg, MB, 55 cm.

21

<p>2012: A 7-day stretch of record-breaking temperatures came to an end across Ontario. During the "heat spell" more than 150 records fell. In some cases, records were 10 or more degrees higher than previous marks. Mosquitoes were spotted in Huntsville and ticks in Kitchener. Golf courses stayed open for much of the winter in the Greater Toronto Area.</p>	<p>1936: Floods isolated the small community of Maugerville, NB, for several days. Emergency officials manoeuvred boats with great difficulty through swift rivers, ice cakes, trees, and other debris to search homes in the village. One woman and 3 children were plucked from their attic, where they had lived for 2 days. Bodies of horses, cattle, and foxes floated in the water.</p> <p>World Meteorological Day</p>	<p>2000: Two Thunder Bay, ON, men faced death when their pickup truck went through ice on a lake north of Dorion, ON. Unable to pry open the doors, they escaped by breaking the back window before it plunged 5 m to the bottom of Little Sturgeon Lake. An ice fisherman who drove an all-terrain vehicle into open water did not survive the icy plunge.</p>	<p>1915: Under bright sunshine and without warning, an avalanche swept down the mountainside at the Britannia Mine on Howe Sound, BC, burying scores of sleeping men. Huge slabs of snow in the slide smothered the entire mine and village, killing 19 miners and injuring 50 workers and townspeople.</p>	<p>1921: The famous fishing schooner <i>Bluenose</i> was launched today. Skies were overcast, with NW winds at 8 km/h, and a temperature of 13.8°C. In order to enter the challenge for the International Schooner Racing Trophy, the <i>Bluenose</i> had to be a bona fide fishing vessel. The ship promptly sailed to the Grand Banks and caught more fish than any of its competitors.</p>	<p>1929: Members of a pack train near Stewart, BC, had a miraculous escape from death when they were caught and buried by a snowslide. A miner sighted the avalanche through field glasses as it struck and called the alarm. A person's hand and a horse's hoof were seen moving in a snow pile, and both man and animal were dug out just in time. A man hit by a block of ice survived by clinging to a sapling.</p>	<p>1919: During a thunderstorm, a lightning strike killed 13 sheep huddled under a tree on a farm in Hope Township, NB. In another freak lightning incident, near Golden Grove, St. John County, NB, a chicken hawk sitting on a fence was struck just as a farmer was aiming his gun to shoot it.</p>
<p>1938: One of the worst Alberta blizzards in years, propelled by mighty winds, held businesses to a standstill and disrupted train and bus services. Snowdrifts were piled high in Drumheller. The train from Calgary arrived 12 hours late. One woman reported the loss of a valuable gobbler during the blizzard, but dug him out of a snowbank one week later, alive and still gobbling.</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>1967: Near Pipestone, MB, an electric storm badly damaged several homes by burning out stoves, TVs, and water heaters. The storm blocked highways and interrupted telephone and power service. Heavy ice formed on the wires and, with winds gusting to 70 km/h, 160 telephone poles were downed. Elections for school trustees were postponed for 6 days.</p>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>Tornadic winds are the most violent winds on earth. On average, which winds are the second strongest?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) hurricane winds</li> <li>2) thunderstorm downbursts</li> <li>3) chinook winds</li> <li>4) monsoon winds</li> <li>5) avalanche winds</li> </ol> <p>Answer on inside back cover</p>				

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# APRIL 2015

Sunday

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Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			<p>1882: The Assiniboine River near Brandon, MB, spilled its banks and filled the entire valley. The CPR bridge would have been swept away had it not been held down by flat cars loaded with steel rails. Settlers streaming west had to walk and swim their cattle and horses across the swollen rivers. At times wagons lay half-buried in an "ocean of gumbo."</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1997: During a blizzard, a tractor-trailer struck a car which had skidded off the Trans-Canada Highway near Pense, SK. The impact threw a passenger in the car, an exchange student from Hong Kong, into a deep pond of icy slush. Paramedics held the boy's head above the frigid water for almost 2 hours while firefighters waited for a tow truck large enough to lift the semi off the boy.</p> <p>2</p>	<p>1903: Lightning struck a teacher at Beechwood, ON, around noon. Lightning passed down the umbrella she was carrying and paralyzed her arm. Unconscious, she lay by the roadside for some time, thoroughly drenched by the rain. Later, she did recover from the shock.</p> <p>3</p> <p>Good Friday</p>	<p>1929: A severe electric storm turned night into day across Ottawa, ON. On Parliament Hill, a single lightning bolt struck the Peace Tower, causing the mighty granite columns to shudder. A second blinding flash struck the southeast corner of the Centre Block above the press correspondents' rooms, causing some nervousness.</p> <p>4</p> <p>Passover Full Moon ☾</p>
<p>1934: Three gold miners were metering a river about 480 km north of Winnipeg, MB. The ice holding their raft suddenly gave way and they started drifting downstream. They waded through the swift icy water to a boulder where they huddled. A pilot sent to pick them up at their camp set out to find them. He felled trees to form a bridge and the 3 miners walked to safety.</p> <p>5</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p>	<p>1977: Tides running up to 10 m above normal combined with heavy rain and strong southwest winds to send floodwaters pouring through 200-year-old dykes across the rich farmland of Annapolis Valley, NS. Dozens of properties in the low-lying sections of Wolfville and Port Williams were flooded, and the salt water damaged hay and grain lands.</p> <p>6</p> <p>Easter Monday</p>	<p>2003: Warton Willie was so ashamed of himself for a busted forecast of an early spring that he sent a stand-in to explain to the Warton, ON, town council. Willie couldn't appear himself because his burrow was still buried in snow. His handlers said, "Willie went cap in paw to publicly apologize for his mistake to the mayor and council and to all Canadians and to his international friends."</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1976: The snow pack in the southern Prairies was 400% deeper than normal. With warm temperatures, rivers rose 2 m, sending floodwaters slashing through sandbag dykes, forcing evacuation. At Souris, MB, fast-moving, ice-infested waters snapped the cables of the town's 200-m swinging bridge, built in 1904 and the longest single-span suspension bridge in Canada.</p> <p>8</p>	<p>1972: On Newfoundland's Avalon and Burin peninsulas, it was a weatherman's nightmare: "light snow, changing to heavy rain, changing to freezing rain, back to snow then to freezing rain again, culminating in a combination of rain and freezing drizzle." St. John's residents awoke to a city encased in silver glitter, toppling transmission lines and knocking out power.</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1929: Northeast winds piled up waters on Lakes Erie and St. Clair, inundating summer cottages in and around Kingsville, ON. The lake levels were the highest in 50 years. Breakwaters were ineffective against monster waves that damaged several boats in the harbour. Backed-up creeks flooded a park in Kingsville. Fishermen placed large rocks in their shacks to prevent them from floating away.</p> <p>10</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p>1957: The Canadian Kodak Co. reported its instruments detected negligible amounts of radioactivity in the snow across southern Ontario. The phenomenon presumably resulted from the Soviet Union's test explosion of thermonuclear weapons a week before.</p> <p>11</p>
<p>2005: The <i>Queen Mary 2</i>, the world's largest luxury liner, altered its course to bring an ailing passenger to St. John's, NL, for treatment. The 340-m-long vessel was too big to squeeze through The Narrows, the harbour entrance, and heavy fog barred city residents from even glimpsing the liner. Heavy fog and severe icing also prevented a search-and-rescue helicopter from reaching the ship.</p> <p>12</p>	<p>1941: Lightning struck the same barn twice in 8 years at Winterbourne, ON. This strike caused a "green ball of fire burst" against the barn. Pigs, calves, and chickens were roasted and farm implements were lost. In the first strike, the bolt had passed through a window, between the farm wife and her 4-year-old daughter, then travelled from the house to the barn.</p> <p>13</p>	<p>1895: One of the strongest gales seen in years raged for 12 hours from the southeast across Portneuf County in Quebec. The ensuing flood carried several bridges away, closed paper mills, and in some instances compelled inhabitants to use canoes to flee their homes. Strong winds pushed over chimneys and blew away signs and fences.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>1881: Snow, freezing rain, and rain greeted Good Friday churchgoers in Fredericton, NB. Winds tore 3 planks from the tower roof of the government buildings. Fences collapsed in the gale and a few chimney pots and some slate from the City Hall tower blew to places unknown. The Saint John River rose into a fury, forcing ferries to proceed slowly.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>1951: Veteran river men on the Ottawa River said that floods were the worst since 1909. In Gatineau Point, QC, half the homes were under water. At Maniwaki, QC, the lumber mill closed down. Three men drowned in 5 m of icy Ottawa River water when their boat capsized between Pembroke and Renfrew, ON. They, along with 6 others, were dumped overboard as they tried to catch a ferry they had missed.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>1922: A strong gale inflicted considerable property damage at Tilsonburg, ON. A large cement wall at a livery, left standing after a fire, collapsed and crashed through a home. The occupants escaped injury, but had a severe fright. The winds toppled several hydro poles, suspending power at all local factories.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>2013: Three weeks into spring, a final blast of winter tracked across Ontario, bringing a mix of ice pellets, snow, and freezing rain, whipped along by strong winds. An EF-1 tornado, Canada's first under the new Enhanced Fujita scale, with winds between 135 to 175 km/h, ripped northwest of Shelburne, knocking down hydro wires, wrecking a barn roof and bringing down trees.</p> <p>18</p>

2001: In Charlottetown, PE, Christmas lawn decorations began popping out from the snow that had covered them since early January. Discarded Christmas trees were also sprouting by people's curbs. Usually the city's tree pickup occurs in early January, but it was postponed after 50 cm of snow fell on the weekend of 7 January.

19

2013: Warm, moist air led to flooding in Ontario's cottage country. The rain and melt water funnelled into rivers and lakes, causing the highest, fastest-rising water levels in recent memory. Scores of streets and properties were flooded. At Beatrice, ON, 55 mm of rain on the wettest April day ever helped to disperse almost 48 cm of snow pack.

20

1923: A severe storm occurred in western Nova Scotia, knocking out telephone service on many rural lines. In one Yarmouth house, lightning struck the top of the chimney, knocked it off, passed down the flue, and took the front out of the fireplace in the living room, filling the house with soot and dirt. The charge also came in contact with electrical wires and blew the meter apart.

21

1934: Water levels in Quebec's eastern Matapedia Valley and in northern New Brunswick along the Saint John River reached their highest mark in 11 years. Washouts disrupted rail and highway traffic. In the Nashwaak Valley, cattle, pigs, and poultry were drowned. Fox farmers reported heavy losses and lumber, logs, and pulpwood were swept out to sea.

22

Earth Day

1887: Ice-infested St. Lawrence River water in Quebec covered roads and took out houses. At Sorel, ice crushed and sank the steamer *Cultivateur*. River ice at Beauharnois came over the rapids at Lachine. Notwithstanding the downpour of rain, the St. Patrick's Society worked hard distributing food and bringing other relief to flooded districts.

23

1958: Twenty women and children were rescued by helicopter when the ice-jammed Peace River in Alberta flooded. Search-and-rescue teams also used helicopters to make a cabin-by-cabin check on the safety of muskrat trappers in the Lake Athabasca delta. The river, normally 80 m wide, spread over 2 km of timberland, and washed away 300,000 board feet of lumber from a mill.

24

2012: Warm weather kick-started the spring thaw by a month in the BC interior. Heavy rain and a deep, rapidly melting snow pack caused waters to rise in low-lying areas, flooding houses and washing out roads. The town of Tulameen was flooded when nearby Otter Lake rose almost a metre overnight; 81 homes were surrounded by water.

25

First Quarter

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

26

2011: McGillivray Bay, YT, saw 1,191 trumpeter swans congregate at Swan Haven. Normally, a daily count of 700 migrating swans would be considered high. The swans stayed longer than usual because of limited access to open water further north. The same situation had occurred the previous year when warmer temperatures down south sent the birds north earlier than usual.

27

1967: The latest snow-fall brought the total for the month at Lethbridge, AB, to 160 cm. Drifts stood 3 m tall. Rural roads were blocked and farms were isolated. Thousands of cattle starved, many within sight of farms and feedlots. The RCAF and USAF began a massive airlift of hay to stranded herds. Horses, helicopters, and toboggans were used on mercy missions.

28

1973: A twister at Thunder Bay, ON, caused severe damage to a small house and scattered its debris as much as 500 m away. A doghouse, complete with dog, was lifted about 5 m off the ground then slammed back down a short distance away.

29

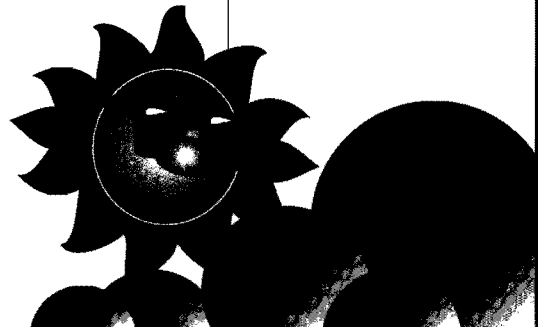
## Weather Quiz

On average how long will a molecule of water stay in the atmosphere before precipitating back to Earth?

- 1) one day
- 2) one week
- 3) 10 days
- 4) one month
- 5) a year

30

Answer on inside back cover

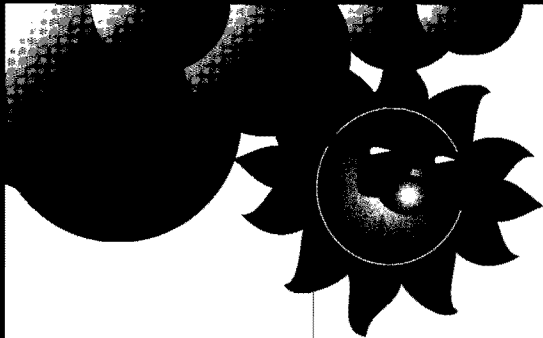




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# MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>2013: Prairie residents often celebrate May Day as the official end of winter. Try telling that to westerners in the Interlake region of Manitoba who were hit with a winter storm that forced them to retrieve their snow shovels and stay at home because of treacherous road conditions. The community of Plumas, 200 km northwest of Winnipeg, got the biggest dump with 45 cm of snow.</p> <div>1</div>	<p>2013: A spring ritual on the shores of James Bay occurred when flooding and backed-up sewers threatened the northern Ontario First Nations communities of Attawapiskat and Kashechewan. Sewage and water flooded 40 homes and buildings. In the end, 8 communities in Ontario's far north came under states of emergency warnings, mostly due to rising waters.</p> <div>2</div>
<p>2013: The frigid spring that Prairie residents had been cursing actually worked in their favour. The cold days and colder nights slowed the disappearance of the record snow pack, allowing a gradual melt. Still, there was flooding. In Saskatchewan, 14 communities were under states of emergency and flood waters derailed a passenger train and closed a stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway.</p> <div>3</div>	<p>1934: Two French seamen set out from their schooner in a dory for a day's fishing. Heavy fog closed in, and when it lifted there was no trace of their mother ship. After 3 days of drifting, weak from exhaustion, hunger, and exposure, their dory wallowing helplessly on Newfoundland's Grand Banks, they were rescued by a motor vessel from Lunenburg.</p> <div>4</div>	<p>1949: Two boys had narrow escapes from death when a lightning bolt struck a steel barrel they were pushing down an incline east of Oshawa, ON. One boy, who had his hand on the barrel, was thrown 3 m and knocked to the ground unconscious. His companion escaped with only a shaking. Lightning also struck the antenna tower of a radio station and melted a streetlight fixture.</p> <div>5</div>	<p>2013: Temperatures over the southern third of Quebec were exceptionally warm, peaking at 29.8°C at La Tuque—some 10 to 15 degrees warmer than normal. The early onset of warmth rapidly accelerated the snowmelt in regions farther north. The heat also hastened field drying, enabling farmers to begin seeding earlier than usual, but raised the forest-fire threat.</p> <div>6</div>	<p>1915: During a severe windstorm, the hour hand on the north dial of the big clock at the Lethbridge, AB, post office tower broke off and fell to the street. A pedestrian narrowly escaped injury or death from the heavy steel hand. He thought at first that he had been the target of the German enemy's showering darts, which somewhat resembled the hour hand.</p> <div>7</div>	<p>1902: Following a heavy rainfall, a debris slide consisting of rock, earth, and glacial ice came down near Kaslo, BC. It destroyed a mining camp, burying the blacksmith's shop, cook tent, and sleeping camp under tonnes of debris. The avalanche killed 1 man and 20 mules from a pack train that was in the process of unloading supplies. The men took refuge in an old mine.</p> <div>8</div>	<p>1958: High winds from the eastern Arctic brought snow flurries and soft hail over parts of Ontario, including Toronto. The strong winds, near-freezing temperatures, and snow flurries made it difficult for stone cleaners high on one of the city's bank buildings. Their shouts to the rope handlers below were drowned by whistling winds and city traffic.</p> <div>9</div>
<p>1996: Montreal, QC, experienced its coldest Mother's Day on record when temperatures remained below 7°C. From Montreal to Sept-Îles, 100 km/h winds and 10 to 25 cm of snow kept people indoors. Highway crews had to haul out the heavy winter machinery. In Ottawa, ON, the weather put a damper on outdoor spring activities, including the launching of 70,000 rubber duckies down the Rideau Canal.</p> <div>10</div>	<p>1934: Blinding black blizzards stripped the soil across the eastern Prairies. Persistent winds drifted it into ditches, scattered fencing, and created swirling clouds of choking brown powder. Crews had to remove a foot of dust on rights-of-way before their trains could proceed. Citizens breathed and ate dust. It was estimated that over 62 billion m of topsoil were eroded by the storm.</p> <div>11</div>	<p>2013: Several homes and cottages on Dauphin Lake, MB, were heavily damaged by fast-moving ice, pushed onshore by strong, gusty winds striking at 90 km/h. Residents called it an ice tsunami; ice floes tipped over some dwellings, while others had rooms full of ice that entered through doors and windows. Crushing ice also brought down several utility poles.</p> <div>12</div>	<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>How long would it take on average for fine sand from the Mongolian Gobi Desert to arrive in Vancouver?</p> <div>13</div> <div><div>1) less than a week</div><div>2) two days</div><div>3) 10 days</div><div>4) a month</div><div>5) 6 months</div></div> <p>Answer on inside back cover</p>	<p>1925: Ice jams on the Yukon River caused flooding in Dawson City—the worst floods ever in Yukon. The south end of the city was under 1.5 m of water, and some cabins were afloat. At the height of the flood, a steady stream of goods and chattels and cordwood and logs flowed down the river. When a dead horse floated by, anxiety grew for island farmers south of Dawson.</p> <div>14</div>	<p>1986: A forest fire out of control in the Grand Falls–Windsor area of central Newfoundland swept to within 100 m of storage bunkers loaded with blasting caps and the equivalent of 7 boxcars of dynamite. Fortunately, the wind shifted at the last minute, turning back the flames.</p> <div>15</div>	<p>2013: A massive 3-day snowfall dumped an incredible 92 cm of snow at Rankin Inlet, NU—about 75% of the hamlet's average annual snowfall. Equally important was that the snow was heavy and wet. Arctic forecasters couldn't recall such a dump of snow in the North. Because of the snow, a radio station in Rankin was unreachable and a fishing derby was postponed.</p> <div>16</div>

<p>Mother's Day</p> <p>1906: A vicious storm packing winds of 130 km/h struck Thunder Bay, ON, toppling a brick wall at the pump house and leaving Thunder Bay without telegraphic communications. The water in Lake Superior rose 45 cm in about 5 minutes. Hailstones, some as big as small potatoes, left nasty bruises, broke every window in the schoolhouse, and panicked the horses.</p> <p>New Moon</p>	<p>Last Quarter</p> <p>1927: An Italian pilot landed in Montreal, QC, during a 3-month, 48,000-km odyssey. The next day he took off, trying to be the first to fly across the North Atlantic. Bad weather delayed him at Quebec City. Unknown to him, an American named Charles Lindbergh took off from New York that very day, unhampered by weather, reaching Paris 33 hours later.</p> <p>Victoria Day</p>	<p>1987: A late spring snowstorm dumped up to 50 cm of snow on parts of Alberta, reducing visibility to 10 m and snapping power lines. Police responded to burglar alarms set off inadvertently by the storm and dealt with traffic lights not functioning. Earlier in the month, temperatures had soared to the low 30s, and newly leafed trees were bowed or broken under the snow.</p>	<p>1964: A series of small tornadoes, followed by wind-driven rain, hit Newbrook, AB. The vortices twisted TV antennas like pretzels. At the Newbrook Meteor Observatory, heavy porch steps were ripped out and deposited some distance away. A chimney cap from the local hardware store resembled a flying saucer as it sailed through a window. One resident lost and then acquired a cover for his rain barrel.</p>	<p>2013: Two thunderstorm clusters raced across southern Ontario, bringing lightning, hail, heavy rain, strong and gusty winds, and 3 tornadoes south of Midland, near Barrie, and near Glenora in Kawartha Lakes. The Glenora tornado was the most powerful—an EF-2 with peak winds between 180 and 200 km/h. Twisting winds were strong enough to debark trees and toss roofs into the air.</p>	<p>2013: A slow-moving low-pressure system south of Newfoundland brought inclement weather to much of the province. Rain and fog prevailed over the Avalon Peninsula, while snow fell on higher terrain. Gander was hit with 58 cm. The heavy, wet snow put a damper on long-weekend activities, although some campers stuck it out and children entertained themselves with snow forts instead of campfires.</p>	<p>1977: Residents of Chatham, NB, sweltered when temperatures reached a record high of 35.3°C. It was the highest temperature reading of the month across Canada. The hot, humid weather fuelled a thunderstorm in Pictou, NS, that caused extensive property damage and sporadic power outages.</p>
<p>1977: The 750 residents of Lafleche, SK, assessed the damage caused by hail and wind that left not one dwelling untouched. One farmer said his aluminum irrigation system was torn apart, with some pieces found 5 km away. A woman was showering when a piece of 2-by-4 was driven through her roof, coming to rest standing upright beside her in the tub.</p> <p>1880: A tornado near Wallaceburg, ON, blew cows out of their fields, breaking their legs and knocking off their horns.</p> <p>First Quarter</p>	<p>2012: Following days of scorching hot and humid weather, 2 tornadoes struck north-west of Montreal, QC, lifting roofs, shattering windows, tossing around farm implements, smashing grain silos, and uprooting trees. In Saint Benoit, the storm reduced the 200-year-old brick Presbyterian church to rubble. The winds toppled hydro poles, leaving 30,000 residents without power.</p>	<p>1904: Without warning, a cyclone struck Amherstburg, ON. The roof of a hotel was whipped off and carried some distance. Lights that guided boats through the harbour were blown down. A smokestack was toppled, a grist mill damaged, and the court house wrecked. That there was no loss of life on the river was due solely to luck, "there being no pleasure parties out at the time."</p>	<p>2001: Around Chisholm, AB, an inferno scorched an estimated 140,000 ha of tinder-dry forest and destroyed several homes. High temperatures, strong wind gusts, low relative humidity, and very dry fuel conditions fanned the flames. The fire advanced quickly, creating its own winds. Hundreds of gas wells in the area were shut down as a precaution.</p>	<p>1920: The little village of St. Quentin, NB, was almost entirely wiped out as the result of forest fires spread by strong winds. Some 1,000 people were left homeless. Two hotels, 3 mills, and a provincial bank were destroyed. About 320 square km of standing timber was destroyed. The fire burned thousands of railroad ties along nearby sidings, and the intense heat buckled steel rails.</p>	<p>2013: A round of thunderstorms dumped sheets of rain in parts of southern Ontario. Port Stanley and East York in Toronto reported the most rainfall, with 89.0 mm and 70.2 mm respectively. The rains flooded Toronto's Don Valley Parkway during the morning rush hour, making it completely impassable. Sections in both directions were either under water or coated in mud and debris.</p>	<p>1966: A violent rain and windstorm rocked the area between Empress, AB, and Burstall, SK, damaging buildings, fences, trees, and TV antennas. The town of Empress almost went up in flames, but a boy noticed the reflection of fire through a warehouse window and alerted the volunteer fire brigade, who fought the flames for 90 minutes.</p>

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# JUNE 2015

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

**1**  
2013: Severe thunderstorms swept through southwestern Quebec, triggering floods and landslides. The season's first tornado landed at Saint-Hugues in the Montérégie region, where it ripped garage doors and tore away rooftops. Flooding led to the evacuation of residents and campers, and the closure of several roads. Shockingly, one station in the Beauce reported 19 cm of snow.

World Environment Day

**2**  
1859: London, ON, homes were shaken by the concussion from thunderclouds. Later, a young boy was found dead in his bed—a victim of lightning that traversed his body from the right ankle to his head, singeing his hair and blackening both ears. Lightning entered down the chimney, reduced the flooring to slivers, and shot into the bedroom.

Full Moon ○

**3**  
1912: A traveller gazing from a hotel window in Algoma, ON, during a thunderstorm saw a lightning strike burn an 8-m-diameter hole in a roof. In the hotel, a carton of eggs was thrown from the table and scrambled in a basket of newly washed clothes and a mirror was smashed into fragments. Outside, 3 holes, each a metre wide, were bored into the ground and a furrow ploughed from one to another.

**4**  
1908: In Pincher Creek, AB, heavy rains eroded the river channel. Residents scrambled to save the bridge by tossing large trees and logs over the riverbank as a breakwater. Several bridges over smaller streams were washed away and at Bocket, the CPR bridge was washed away, halting trains. Farmers stayed in town 3 days, afraid to venture home.

**5**  
2011: The worst flooding in 150 years hit the Richelieu Valley, QC, forcing 1,000 people from their homes. Montérégie's concrete dock, built to accommodate cruise ships, was wrecked. The flood damaged 75 chalets and motor homes. About 800 soldiers were deployed to help, and later about 10,000 Quebecers, including Scouts and the St. John's Ambulance, volunteered to clean up.

**6**  
1980: A wind blustering at 112 km/h destroyed a barn and levelled several other buildings in and around Clover Bar, AB, during a 10-minute rainstorm. The farmer said the storm did him a favour since he was planning to tear down the barn anyway. It had been standing since about 1915 and had not housed animals since the winter.

**7**

1945: A convoy of ships from Europe arrived in Halifax after several of them were damaged in a field of icebergs off the Newfoundland Grand Banks. Most of the collisions occurred within a 10-minute period. Visibility was barely more than 80 m. That no ship sank or lives were lost was a miracle.

**8**  
2013: Several days of heavy rain at the same time as an unseasonable warm spell triggered a rapid snowmelt around Fort McMurray, AB. The Hangingstone River reached its highest level in 100 years. Highways were covered with oozing mud and debris and road surfaces were pockmarked with sinkholes. Rising waters cut travel to and from the Athabasca oil sands.

**9**  
2013: Tropical Storm Andrea tracked south of Newfoundland and Labrador. New Brunswick's Grand Manan Island was sodden with more than 90 mm of rain. Tantallon, NS, near Peggy's Cove, received the greatest rainfall at 132 mm. Wind gusts at 70 km/h knocked out power and restricted high-sided vehicles from crossing the Confederation Bridge.

Last Quarter ○

**10**  
1902: Nearly a year's worth of rain fell in one month at Lethbridge, AB. Creeks became boiling torrents. Several houses and stables were either washed away or rendered unfit for habitation. At Cardston, the contents of 2 lumber yards literally became driftwood and volunteers hastily built a good-sized boat to rescue a man and his wife imprisoned in their floating house.

**11**  
1924: A cyclone destroyed a house and several granaries near Lafleche, SK. A farmer near Gravelbourg was killed instantly by lightning as he carried a pail of milk from the barn to his house. An area about 8 km wide and 35 km long was covered in 5 cm of hail. An unoccupied house became a heap of splintered wood after being lifted off its foundation, carried 15 m aloft, and dropped 400 m away.

**12**  
1905: A furious 2-h electrical storm swept over Ottawa, ON, accompanied by a heavy downpour of rain that converted streets into rivers. Lightning struck some commercial buildings, homes, and sheds—some burned to the ground. One charge burned the transformer in the House of Commons. The storm also interfered with train service west of Toronto.

**13**  
1835: In Quebec City, QC, the warm day gave way to a violent gale at night. The gale levelled many fences and trees, injuring orchard trees in blossom. It also razed several barns and unroofed houses. On the St. Lawrence River, huge wind-driven waves were filled with loose timber. In port, more than 150 ships suffered damage.

**14**

1907: A tornado blew a train off the tracks near Francis, SK, tossing 3 cars into the ditch. Passengers smashed glass to crawl through windows. The second coach lay in a metre of water; had passengers not made a hasty exit they would have drowned. The winds also destroyed a homestead. Its lone resident, shaken and bruised, crawled a kilometre to the home of a neighbour.

**15**  
1995: Powerful gusts from a sudden downward draft of a thunderstorm, described as a plough wind, fanned straight across Fillmore, SK. Winds exceeding 100 km/h blew the roof off the grain elevator, broke a radio tower, toppled a chimney on a church, and damaged dozens of buildings. Puddles of as much as 50 mm of rain formed in 15 minutes.

**16**  
1922: A man was heading home from Irma, AB, when lightning struck his horse, killing it instantly. All the gentleman could recall was a sudden crash as if the earth had opened up and swallowed the horse, rig, and all. When he came to, he got out and unhitched the horse, thinking it had merely stumbled and fallen. When it didn't get up, he felt its head. The horse was dead and quite cold.

**17**  
Weather Quiz  
Because of its weather, which city has the most blisters, cracks, heel spurs, shin splints, sprains and ingrown toenails?  
1) Vancouver  
2) Calgary  
3) Winnipeg  
4) Montreal  
5) Halifax

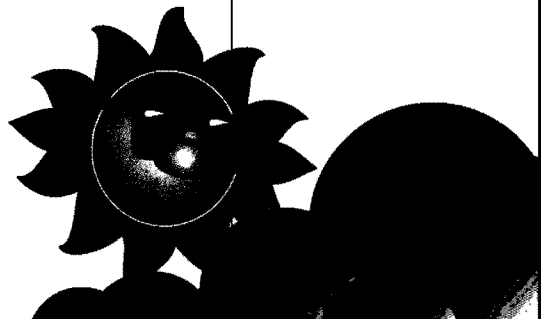
Answer on inside back cover

**18**  
1957: Three teachers suffered shock and more than 300 children were frightened when lightning struck their school in Brantford, ON. The bolt sent a shower of broken brick into the air, cracked windows, and tore plaster off ceilings and walls. Fluorescent lights were turned completely around in their brackets. Classes continued until the regular 4 o'clock dismissal time.

**19**  
2013: Alberta's super flood of 2013 washed across 1/4 of the province and through the heart of Calgary. It cut off dozens of communities throughout the province and prompted an enormous evacuation—100,000 Albertans were told to leave their homes. It was Canada's costliest natural disaster, exceeding \$6 billion.

**20**  
1922: A powerful cyclone ripped through Mossbank, SK, smashing countless farm homes and reducing granaries and barns to kindling. A tornado twisted automobiles, wagons, and machinery into junk. Cows were lifted and hurled some distance. Hail the size of mothballs fell near Indian Head, piling up in drifts and beating down most crops. All sloughs in the path of the storm dried up.

		New Moon ●		Ramadan									
2004: Yukoners were roasting in an unprecedented heat wave. The temperature at Whitehorse reached 33.2°C—its third warmest in 62 years. Swift River, on the Alaska Highway, became the hottest spot ever in Yukon with an unofficial temperature of 37°C. Some Yukoners tried to cool down by jumping off bridges into rivers. Stores exhausted their supplies of electric fans and ice.	21	1922: The Saint John River in New Brunswick rose 5 m and carried away 3 million metres of lumber. The water overflowed roads and carried away the Hartland Bridge for the third time in only a few years. Rising waters and landslides washed out all the rail lines between Woodstock and Edmundston.	22	1922: A vicious storm brought much-needed rain to the eastern Prairies but it also littered fields with debris. In Portage la Prairie, MB, hailstones were driven against walls and roofs like the blows of an axe. Farmers reported grain cut off level with the ground. A heavy loss of stock was also reported. All telegraph and telephone poles were down, and power lines were badly tangled.	23	2013: An ice island on Admiralty Inlet near Arctic Bay broke free, setting 20 tourists and 11 Inuit hunters adrift in the Northwest Passage. The floe drifted nearly 20 km before tides, winds, and the effects of a super moon pushed it against land where rescue helicopters waited to shuttle the stranded adventurers to safety.	24	2013: In western Labrador, states of emergency were in effect for more than a week due to forest fires. Persistent high winds fanning and spreading flames forced people to evacuate cabins near Labrador City and closed the Trans-Canada Highway. When the blaze came within 8 km of Wabush Lake and thick smoke threatened people's health, officials moved quickly to evacuate 2,000 residents.	25	2013: A man died when a spruce tree fell on his tent at a campground near Falcon Beach, MB. The isolated storm inflicted minimal damage—just 10 trees were downed. Officials called it a one-in-a-million chance that the tree fell on an occupied tent. Winds at the time reached about 70 km/h, not normally powerful enough to topple trees, yet strong enough to yank the root ball out of the ground.	26	1948: For the second time in 10 days, a tornado swept through the Detroit-Windsor area, tossing automobiles through the air, tearing roofs from buildings and injuring 20. The storm started in the western section of Windsor, crossed the Detroit River, and terrorized downtown Detroit for 3 minutes. It reversed the path of a tornado that had killed 16 in Windsor on June 17.	27
Father's Day Summer Solstice 12:38 EDT		Discovery Day (Newfoundland and Labrador)		St. Jean-Baptiste Day		First Quarter ●◐							
1925: A fierce windstorm hit Bilby, AB. Campers reported huge trees ripped out by the root balls and hurled around like matchwood, smashing cars and damaging cottages. To escape the debris field, one group of campers had to cut away 20 trees lying in their path. A tornado struck near Banff, ripping tents and blowing down trees, killing a boy as he emerged from the front seat of a vehicle.	28	2007: A massive storm ripped through the south-eastern BC interior near Creston, injuring 10, tearing off roofs, and splintering trees. Winds of up to 106 km/h were recorded at the Cranbrook Airport where several people said they witnessed cloud rotation. The final verdict was not tornadic but straight-line winds—essentially a giant gust.	29	1963: According to witnesses, a farmer near Birtle, MB, stepped to the door to photograph an approaching storm when his house apparently exploded in a tornado. The farmer's body was entirely stripped of clothing and found about 50 m to the south.	30								



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# JULY 2015

Sunday

Monday

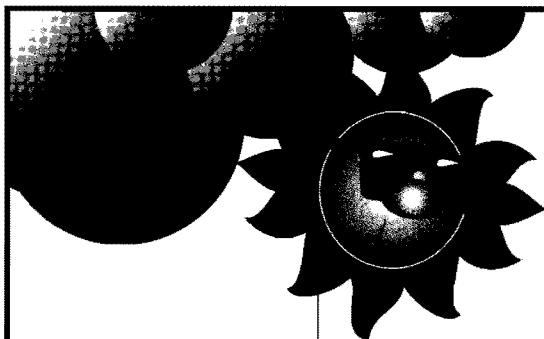
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



2013: Around 1:15 a.m. on July 6, an unattended oil tanker train speeding at 100 km/h derailed in the centre of Lac Mégantic, QC. The resulting fire and explosion killed 47 people, the deadliest rail disaster in Canada in 150 years. For 18 days following the tragedy, rain and afternoon temperatures approaching 30°C made the recovery of bodies even more trying.

5

1937: A tornado inflicted extensive damage in Kelliher, SK. The vortex lifted the curling rink from its foundation and demolished it. Also damaged were countless stables, outhouses, and barns and hundreds of telephone poles. Two young boys sheltered in a bathing house to escape the storm, only to have the house picked up and deposited in Birch Lake.

6

Aphelion 16:00 EDT

1890: A freak cyclone struck Grenfell, SK, taking the roof and the top logs off a house. As the family watched, the wind removed and scattered their belongings, including stove, furniture, clothes, dishes, and cooking utensils. Later, they found everything but a soap dish and the wheel off the wheelbarrow. A neighbour saved himself by lying on the ground and clinging to a small poplar.

12

2011: Officials referred to it as a "social-media tornado" because Environment Canada reclassified what they originally called a funnel cloud in southwest Calgary to an F-0 tornado after a gallery of photos and videos appeared online, confirming the cloud did touch down. It was the first tornado in Calgary since 2009 and the ninth since 1970. Winds attained 100 km/h.

13

1896: The British Navy steamer *Capulet* got lost in thick fog off St. Mary's Bay, NL, and wrecked upon the rocks while attempting to find a landing place. An officer waded ashore, scaled the cliffs, and found a fishing craft to take the passengers to Placentia. From there, they took a train to St. John's. Had it been at night or in rough weather, all aboard would have drowned.

7

2013: A line of wild thunderstorms, including 2 tornadoes, ripped through the eastern Prairies. In Saskatchewan, the storm featured grapefruit-sized hail, punishing winds, and flooding rains. In Pipestone, MB, fierce winds ripped away roofs, snapped power lines, toppled trees onto cars, and demolished a portion of the town's arena. Hail damaged 400 hectares of crops.

14

1925: At the peak of a severe storm over Vermilion, AB, lightning struck a farmer who was holding a crowbar and threw him violently to the ground, unconscious. The charge shredded his clothes and tore off his heavy leather boots. His hair was singed and the flash burnt a 7-cm-wide strip down the front of his body. His escape from death was simply miraculous.

1

Canada Day

Full Moon ☾

2013: A storm delivered more rain in 2 hours than Toronto, ON, usually sees during an entire July. While Toronto Pearson had 126.0 mm, Toronto City, 96.8 mm, and Toronto Island 85.5 mm, less than 5 mm fell in nearby Oshawa, Oakville, or Hamilton. The storm damage costs were estimated at close to \$1 billion.

8

Last Quarter ☾

2013: Humidex readings in Ontario and Quebec exceeded an unhealthy 40 for several hours. The season's first, longest, and only heat wave sent paramedics scrambling and overloaded emergency rooms. Temperatures soared to 35°C and night-time readings stayed consistently above 20°C. The hot spot was Beauport, QC—a steamy 38.6°C. Two deaths in Quebec were possibly connected with the extreme heat.

15

1983: At Sainte-Marguerite-Marie, QC, a sudden tornado accompanied by golf-ball-sized hailstones picked up a trailer and flipped it twice before dropping it and smashing it. The winds sucked 9 members of one family through the plate-glass window of the trailer and trapped another member under the wreckage. Apart from cuts, bruises, and a fractured shoulder, no one was seriously hurt.

2

2012: Thick smoke from wildfires over Siberia travelled south over the Pacific Ocean into British Columbia. The microscopic haze particles had a red-brown hue that helped create stunning sunsets. The lingering smoke pushed ozone levels to never-before-seen numbers—84 parts per billion—raising health concerns for people with respiratory problems.

9

Nunavut Day

1922: A steam schooner sank in the Strait of Juan de Fuca off the BC coast after crashing into a freighter in a dense fog. The freighter, only slightly damaged, picked up 2 lifeboats and then cruised around under the pall of fog that was aggravated by smoke from nearby forest fires. There was no trace of 4 crew members who were soon given up for lost.

16

2013: Hot weather and driest conditions in 40 years in central and northern Quebec triggered an outbreak of wildfires in the James Bay area. The fires and thick smoke prompted the evacuation of hundreds of residents. Smoke triggered numerous power failures, including a rush-hour closure of the Montreal Metro system. Several buildings in the city's core, including hospitals, had to be evacuated.

3

2015: Opening ceremonies for the 17th Pan Am Games will be held in and around Toronto. Close to 7,000 athletes from across Latin America, the Caribbean and North America will compete in 36 sports. The average maximum/minimum temperature on this date is 26.7°C and 14.7°C with a 33% chance of rain. Extremes over 175 years were 40.6°C (1936), 8.9°C (1942) and 33.4 mm of rain (2006).

10

1873: At Newcastle, ON, thick black clouds burst into torrents of rain, sending baseball players and about 100 spectators into a nearby shed for shelter. Suddenly, an awful explosion occurred as lightning struck a flagpole at the end of the shed, splintering it. Incredibly, only one person was injured. He was struck on the left temple, the cheek, and left breast.

17

1907: A severe wind-and-rain storm of unusual violence struck Sedley, SK. Hail did considerable damage to crops. In addition, a newly built granary was blown to pieces, and a new wagon box was carried over a fence and smashed to pieces on an adjoining farm. At a Ladies' Aid meeting, all the buggies belonging to the visiting ladies were swept away and landed in Wascana Creek.

4

1960: Lightning struck a 3-year-old boy through a screen door in Keswick, ON, but miraculously he escaped with only scorched hair and minor burns. It struck an elm tree, travelled along a galvanized clothesline to the screen door, then to the door handle, zapped the fridge and stove, and exploded in a ball of bright flame on the lid of a potato pot in his mother's hands. She was not hurt.

11

2013: All week, severe storms had pummeled parts of southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, drenching roads, damaging property, and triggering tornadoes. On this day, a tornado touched down in the Sioux Valley First Nation community west of Brandon, MB. Three days later yet another tornado touched down in the region between Deloraine, MB, and Boissevain, MB.

18

			New Moon ●			
<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>What day of the week do most incidents of lightning striking people or things occur?</p> <p>1) Monday 2) Tuesday 3) Friday 4) Sunday 5) No difference</p> <p>Answer on inside back cover</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2013: Hot, humid, and unstable air combined with a cold front to generate severe gusty thunderstorms across southern New Brunswick. In the Grand Lake area, a tornado touched down near Jemseg, uprooting trees, cutting phone lines, and damaging property. At least 3 barns, sheds, and a garage were destroyed in the Whites Cove area with barn debris scattered 350 m away.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1939: Townspeople of Shoal Lake, MB, were terrified by a lightning strike from a cloudless sky. The charge hurled a worker at the blacksmith shop a metre into the air. It knocked a man unconscious to the floor in his kitchen, and hurled scores of other people to the sidewalk. After the lightning bolt, the town fell into darkness and a windstorm arose, followed by a deluge.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1993: A brief thunderstorm with heavy rain, very strong wind, lightning, and pea-sized hail struck Kings County, PE. Lightning struck the Caledonia Presbyterian Church, 3 km to the northeast of Mount Vernon, shattering the steeple tower and completely damaging the sound system of the church.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1967: Prince Philip opened the Fifth Pan-American Games in Winnipeg, MB, before 20,000 drenched spectators. The down-pour was at its heaviest just as the Prince's convertible drove into the stadium. As the competitors paraded onto the field, the sun came out. The Canadian team missed the rain because, as host country, its athletes were last out.</p> <p>First Quarter ◐</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1999: Heat at the Pan-Am Games in Winnipeg, MB, took its toll on spectators and athletes. Five people fainted with heat exhaustion as temperatures rose to 32°C. At the soccer pitch, participants claimed fatigue and dehydration affected their play, except the team from Costa Rica, who had a definite edge in the heat.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1975: A tornado ripped through St. Bonaventure, QC, killing a mother and her infant twins in their mobile home. The body of one of the twins was found 200 m away. The storm left 1/3 of the town's 1,000 people homeless. The steeple on the Roman Catholic Church lay crumpled, its pipe organ left protruding from one end of the building. Winds flattened headstones in the graveyard.</p>
<p>2013: A slow-moving thunderstorm yielded record rains in New Brunswick. Fredericton and Gagetown got 120 mm of rain, but the heaviest deluge (163 mm) occurred at St. Stephen where numerous businesses and residents dealt with flooded basements. In Fredericton, never had there been a wetter day in July. It turned out to be the wettest July ever (228.2 mm), with records dating back to the 1870s.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1921: A thunderstorm across the Maritimes featured numerous flashes of vivid lightning accompanied by heavy peals of thunder and showers of rain. One bolt of lightning entered a house at Ferguson's Cove, NS, and carried away the slats of the owner's bed. The occupant was left lying on the floor, uninjured but considerably shaken up.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>2013: A slow-moving thunderstorm soaked parts of northern and central Ontario with heavy rains. Total rainfall amounts were 92 mm in Nagagami, 64 mm in Armstrong, and 62 mm in Sault Ste. Marie, Geraldton, and Kapuskasing. With cooler air, conditions were favourable for the development of waterspouts. At least 12 funnel clouds and 7 waterspouts were spotted over the Great Lakes and Lake Nipissing.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1892: A cloudburst in Ottawa, ON, developed into a perfect cyclone when it reached Templeton Township. The winds snapped elm trees 0.5 m in diameter. Pine trees 1 m in diameter shared the same fate. Friends of a woman whose husband had been killed by a storm in June had just completed erecting new farm buildings only to have this storm take them down again.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1978: A highly unusual tornado toppled a transmission tower near Yellowknife, NT. The tornado appeared to have bounced a couple of times before ripping up the tower 5 km from Rae-Edzo, NT. The storm tore the beams right out of the base mounts and bent the tower in half. It was the third twister recorded in the Yellowknife area in 16 years.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>2013: July was the wettest month in history in Windsor, ON—262.2 mm—some 3 times the monthly normal of 82 mm. It even beat the wettest month ever—September 1981 with 246.1 mm. It rained hard and often during the month with 21 wet days, also a record. The frequent deluges caused headaches for local farmers. As one said, "I just can't get on the field because the machinery doesn't float."</p> <p>Full Moon ○</p>	<p>31</p>

JULY

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A storm cloud with the possibility of hail near Itoona, SK / Chad Cowan / Rex Features

# AUGUST 2015

SEPTEMBER

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Sunday

Monday

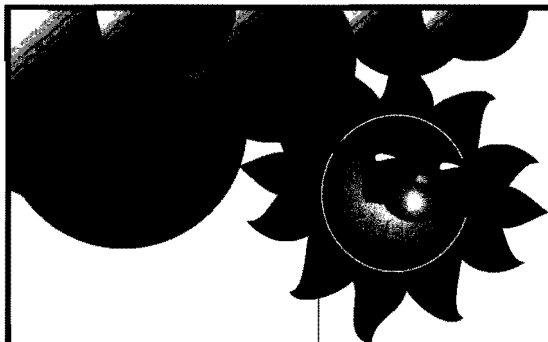
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1992: A hailstorm battered the towns of Nobleford and Monarch, near Lethbridge, AB. The hail knocked birds out of trees and caused extensive damage to property and crops. Golf-ball-sized hail was piled as deep as 30 cm on area highways. Officials called out snowploughs to clear roads.

2

1928: People in Toronto tried to avoid wind-blown rain by dashing from one sheltering doorway to another. Intersections became fountains with water rising curb-high. Lightning struck St. Michael's Cathedral and triggered a fire in the roof of the fire station hose tower. A taxi company mused about sending out rowboats to rescue drivers with stalled engines.

3

Civic Day (most regions)

1989: Hot, humid weather in southern Alberta sent rattle-snakes and bullsnakes up from the coulees and onto city streets. Fish and wildlife experts cautioned people to leave the snakes alone—they're docile but can be dangerous if provoked. Often, the non-poisonous bullsnakes are confused with rattlers, because "they're much more aggressive and fluff themselves and hiss and can make quite a racket."

9

1935: A windstorm played havoc near Fairview, MB, where it smashed a big barn and shifted a new grain elevator being built a few inches off its foundation. At the freight yard, it propelled some rail cars for 2 km. Winds downed telephone lines and lifted sheaves of wheat from fields onto tops of telephone lines and cross arms.

10

1981: Lightning instantly killed 2 carpenters using an electric saw on an unfinished 2-storey house in Toronto, ON. A tornado sliced through Bradford where it ripped the roof off a fruit market. Near Newmarket, a woman lying face down in a field, thought to be a lightning victim, turned out to be only somewhat the worse for drink. She was taken to the police station to dry out.

4

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

1993: A severe thunderstorm hit Truro, NS, dumping 60 mm of rain in under 2 hours. One resident thought his trailer was going to float away. The rain overloaded sewers in town and flooded dozens of basements. One rental-supply worker said water vacs, pumps, and carpet cleaners were all in big demand.

5

1998: Drought conditions prevailed across Prince Edward Island. Cornwall's town council asked residents to put away their hoses and lawn sprinklers, despite parched lawns. All sports fields were off limits at least until there was enough rain for the brittle grass to grow, and children's soccer leagues stopped their programs.

12

1902: In Dawson, YT, the extreme heat usually preceding a hailstorm was absent when, suddenly, lightning flashed and hailstones the size of marbles began to fall, restricting visibility as if it was a blizzard. The din of hail falling on metal-roofed buildings made it impossible to hear; court had to be stopped for several minutes.

6

Last Quarter ☾

2013: Temperatures in Nunavut were unusually warm, with Kugluktuk reaching 29.3°C today, after setting records for 6 consecutive days. Normal daily highs are 13°C. Baker Lake set a new record with a temperature of 26.7°C, only to exceed that with another record the next day at 29.2°C.

13

1965: Two Boy Scouts from Ohio died when lightning struck the canvas canoe they were sheltering under near Sudbury, ON; 15 other scouts were spared. Two young children near Westport, ON, died when a lightning bolt struck a nearby wire fence, jumped 15 cm to a metal tent peg and travelled to the cots on which they were sleeping.

7

1912: In Cupar, SK, hail pounded a man holding a team of horses, leaving him with bruises all over his body. Left dead around sloughs were hundreds of ducks and pelicans. A man returned home to find his crop flattened, livestock and his dog killed, his wife unconscious, and their 10 children huddled indoors, battered and bruised by hailstones.

14

2011: The cleanup got underway around Grand Falls, NB, after a nasty rainstorm downed trees and blocked roads. The storm also wrecked an outdoor theatre and knocked out power to 4,000 customers. Winds tore shingles off rooftops and tossed backyard patio sets across yards and roads. Lightning started a fire in a barn that killed 40 angora goats and several dairy cows.

1

1996: The older residents of Sarnia-Chatham, ON, called it the most brilliant lightning display ever—and the loudest. The wind blew hurricane-force, hail collected in large quantities and torrents of rain fell—125 mm worth. The collegiate gym was a total wreck. Corn fields were flattened as if a heavy roller had passed over.

8

1822: A terrible storm accompanied by high tides washed out much of a near-completed dyke system on the Canard River in Nova Scotia. On the positive side, the storm cleared out a sand bank that had hitherto impeded the laying of a foundation. Locals petitioned the provincial government for financial aid because they said it took a natural disaster to get money out of the government.

15

1922: When a hot, dry wind sprang up, a fire smouldering in the logging debris around Merville, BC, took off, jumping up to a kilometre at a time. The cyclonic winds carried the wall of flaming branches and bark and overran fleeing crews. The heat was so intense that the water in streams evaporated.

16

1934: During a dust storm, a strong gust of wind ripped the roof off a boxcar on a speeding CPR freight train near Calgary, AB. One rod-rider travelling on top of the car was hurled to his death. His companion was seriously injured.

17

Discovery Day(Yukon)

1876: Waterspouts came ashore on St. Paul's Island, NS, throwing rocks, earth, trees, and water upward. They demolished 5 buildings, leaving nothing, not even their contents. A plough and stove were found 75 m away.

18

1910: A heavy thunderstorm, accompanied by intense lightning and a terrific downpour crossed Bow Island in Alberta, greatly improving the spirits of the residents after a long spell of hot, dry weather. During the storm, 150 frightened horses stampeded, galloping 3 km in a wild rush, tearing down wire fencing and snapping off cedar posts along the way. One horse died and 40 more were badly cut.

19

1920: The ore freighter *Superior City* sank in Lake Superior after a collision with the steamer *Willis King*. On impact, an explosion in the boiler room wrecked the stern of the ore carrier. Only 4 of her 33 crew survived. One ship's wheelman claimed the weather was calm but hazy, while the captain of the other ship maintained there was heavy fog.

20

1906: A lingering heat wave in Montreal, QC, raised concerns about the dwindling amount of ice in storage. If the heat wave did not end in 2 weeks, serious shortages would occur. Not since the summer of 1899 had there been such a demand for ice. The handicap arose because the previous winter's ice harvest was very poor. Ice dealers were kept busy calculating their supply all through the summer.

21

1984: In Algonquin Park, it was said that only one whimbrel had ever been spotted. Following today's thunderstorm, 2 flocks of 50 whimbrels and many more single ones were seen in night migration.

22

First Quarter ○

1924: Following 200 mm of rain in 4 days, the Bella Coola River flooded, hurling trees and rocks against bridges and buildings. After a bridge washed away, access to the wharf was cut off.

23

1907: During a fierce storm near Carberry, MB, lightning entered a chimney, ran along the stovepipe and through the wall to the telephone, tearing it into bits. A little girl, asleep in the room where the bolt first

30 entered was untouched, but her bed was strewn with metal and plaster.

1925: Strong winds fed a devastating fire in Montreal, QC, leaving 60 families homeless. Firefighters' efforts were impeded by weak water pressure. Two firemen were overcome by smoke and needed treatment.

24

1924: A colossal storm caused extensive damage in Quebec's Laurentians, turning over summer cottages, barns, and outhouses. A man trying to shut off the electric power, fearing lightning, was hurled through

31 the air by the wind and dashed against the side of a building.

1969: A tornado and fierce hailstorm left the hamlet of Lewvan, SK, in shambles. Swirling winds sucked dishes from china cabinets and stacked them in neat piles on the floor. Dead chickens lay strewn across the yard of a farm while others, injured, floundered about. The ground around a plantation of small evergreens was a mass of needles stripped from the trees.

25

1883: A heavy squall swept over the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, inflicting significant damage to American and French fishing fleets. About 2,000 dories were trawling when the squall struck. Around 200 fishermen were swept from their vessels, and there was a loss of over 70 lives.

26

1983: At a Toronto ball-park, lightning struck a young shortstop in his right temple and exited through his left foot, leaving only a slight mark on his eyelid. However, his heart stopped and he was kept alive by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Later, he said he was convinced that a recent league rule change switching from steel to rubber cleats might have saved his life.

27

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

28

Weather Quiz  
Which city is drier?

29

- 1) Athens
- 2) Downtown Los Angeles
- 3) Salt Lake City
- 4) Minneapolis
- 5) Kelowna


Answer on inside back cover



	1						
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SEPTEMBER 2015

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<div>1938: On the last day of August, a fierce storm with powerful winds and copious rains (close to 100 mm) struck the Quebec Zoological Gardens at Charlesbourg, QC. Two seals, several exotic birds, and dozens of captive trout disappeared as winds tore at the zoo. Several small animals drowned, fish tanks overflowed, and dazed birds disappeared into the dark.</div> <div>1</div>	<div>2013: An intense weather system tracked across Nova Scotia from the east coast of the United States, dumping in excess of 50 mm of rain. The system's high moisture content combined with its slow-moving eastern track brought the heaviest rainfalls to southern and eastern Newfoundland. Gander received 125 mm, leaving the Trans-Canada Highway to Gambo impassable.</div> <div>2</div>	<div>2013: Ice extents in the Arctic had recovered close to normal, surprising given that in 2012, the ice cover had shrunk to its lowest extent since satellite records began 34 years ago. It was still more than a million square km less than the 30-year average, the sixth smallest ever recorded and half of what the concentration was in the 1950s.</div> <div>3</div>	<div>2013: Firefighters in Yukon and the Northwest Territories had a long and busy year. Very dry, hot weather meant fire behaviour was more extreme and fires more difficult to extinguish, burning deep in the forest duff. One fire in early September melted fibre-optic cables that caused phone and internet disruptions. At times, Yellowknifers could smell smoke from nearby wildfires.</div> <div>4</div>	<div>1840: Canada's first weather observations were recorded—midnight temperature 10.9°C—on this date by Lieut. Charles Riddell and his staff from the Royal Artillery on site at the University of Toronto. Weather observations have continued at or very close to this location up to the present. 2015 marks the 175th anniversary of continuous weather observations in Canada.</div> <div>Last Quarter </div> <div>5</div>
<div>2013: American adventurers failed in their plan to cross the fabled Northwest Passage on jet skis. At Cambridge Bay, NU, the weather turned cold and wet, and the 7-member crew became stuck in the ice. The ocean started forming millions of little ice pancakes about the size of quarters. Said one participant, "It's like you're riding on top of a Slurpee."</div> <div>6</div>	<div>2011: RCMP reported a drastic drop in the size of the outdoor marijuana crop on Vancouver Island. The drug team destroyed about a quarter of the 30,000 plants found in 2010. In addition, the plants were significantly stunted with fewer seeds. Officers admitted that besides effective policing the poorer harvest could be attributed to cold, wet weather at the start of the growing season.</div> <div>7</div> <div>Labour Day</div>	<div>2004: Residents of Grande Prairie, AB, woke up to 15 cm of snow on the ground, enough to flatten crops and soften the ground. In Edmonton, thousands of residents lost power to tree branches falling on electrical lines. The early snowfall turned leaves into miniature hammocks for snow, causing branches to crack and snap. The snow prompted organizers to call off 2 charity golf tournaments.</div> <div>8</div>	<div>2013: Severe thunderstorms with 100-mm downpours and thousands of lightning strokes occurred across central Ontario. Mudslides washed away culverts and roads, opening up sinkholes, blowing off manhole covers, and drowning a motorcyclist. In Sault Ste. Marie, flash-flooding contributed to the collapse of the CN Rail trestle, creating alarm about the structural integrity of bridges and culverts.</div> <div>9</div>	<div>2013: A heat alert was issued in Toronto as the temperature exceeded 34°C—without the humidity, impressive at that late date. Records were set for the highest temperature recorded for any day after the 10th of September. Sarnia was the hot spot at 35.9°C. An upside was the low number of West Nile virus cases—105 positive tests, down from more than 400.</div> <div>10</div>	<div>2013: A warm, moist air mass with embedded thunderstorms brought heavy rains to Suroît, Eastern Townships, and the Beauce in Quebec. As much as 80 mm in 5 hours caused widespread flooding. Powerful winds uprooted trees, and hailstones up to 3 cm in diameter pounded crops and property in Saint-Anicet and Hemmingford. Humidex values reached 42—incredibly high for so late in the year.</div> <div>11</div>	<div>2013: BC's unusually warm weather spawned swarms of hungry, aggressive yellow jackets that ruined picnics, terrorized sunbathers, and bombarded barbecues. This year's critters appeared especially pesky, stung repeatedly, were easily provoked, and were equipped with an effective built-in warning system that summoned reinforcements.</div> <div>12</div>
<div>2013: Tropical Storm Gabrielle dumped as much as 60 mm of rain on parts of Nova Scotia and blew gusts up to 70 km/h on the eastern mainland and Cape Breton Island. The storm's remnants combined with a broad area of low pressure over the Maritimes, bringing significant and highly variable rainfall to much of western and northern Newfoundland. Cow Head recorded 75 mm of rain.</div> <div>13</div>	<div>2013: Roughly 7,500 songbirds, including red-eyed vireos, a variety of warblers, and thrushes, were killed after flying into a gas flare at a natural-gas plant operated by Canaport LNG in Saint John, NB. The migrating birds seemed drawn to the bright flames like moths to light. Thick fog, low cloud cover, winds, and generally unsettled weather all conspired to make this happen.</div> <div>14</div>	<div>1996: Driving rain and fierce winds topping 100 km/h from Hurricane Hortense took down power lines and shattered windows across Nova Scotia. Power was lost just minutes before the televised final game of the World Cup of Hockey between Canada and the United States. In East Lawrencetown, NS, a wave the size of an 18-wheel truck destroyed half a house.</div> <div>15</div>	<div>2011: Maria made land-fall over the Avalon Peninsula as a Category 1 storm. With memories of Hurricane Igor still fresh almost a year later, residents had prepared well for Maria. While only 13 mm fell at St. John's, wind gusts reached nearly 80 km/h. Further, the storm surge was only 0.5 m at Argentia at low tide. Maria was the 13th hurricane to make landfall in Newfoundland since 1851.</div> <div>16</div>	<div>1879: A terrific rain- and windstorm accompanied by thunder and lightning passed over Montreal, QC, causing extensive property damage. In one case, the winds 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 were injured slightly.</div> <div>17</div>	<div>1856: In a nasty fall storm, the steamer <i>Corra Linn</i>, with 79 persons aboard, went ashore on Salmon Island shoal, near Kingston, ON. Every swell lifted her and let her down on a ledge of rocks with tremendous violence. Women passengers and children cried and prayed. A few musket shots were fired, and colored lamps exhibited as signals of distress. Rescue was made at first light.</div> <div>18</div>	<div>2011: A giant ice island inched its way along Newfoundland's northeast coast. It came from the Petermann Glacier, off the northern part of Greenland. The ice island, which was once the size of Manhattan, came down the Labrador coast through May and June and first became visible off Newfoundland's north peninsula in mid-July.</div> <div>19</div>

1928: Gas service went off throughout the greater part of Toronto as the result of a strong storm on Lake Ontario that severed 25 m of gas main. The whole of Toronto Island was without fuel. Service restoration was slow because the heavy sea swept away the iron pipe and high waves prevented workmen from repairing the line.

20

2013: A slow-moving cold front combined with moisture from the Gulf of Mexico produced heavy bands of rain and scattered thunderstorms across much of southern Ontario over 2 days. Total rainfall exceeded 100 mm in London, Wellesley, New Hamburg, and Waterloo. The September soaker washed out several activities planned for the International Plowing Match near Mitchell and Stratford.

21

First Quarter ●

2004: A huge circle of barley lay on the ground, about 3 km from Humboldt, SK. Some thought it was a hoax or aliens sending cryptic messages. Others thought it was nature—tornadoes or dust devils. The farmer's daughter could hardly stand in the middle of it without becoming dizzy. The farmer planned to compare crops from seed planted inside the circle with those planted outside.

22

1935: A ship capsized in a raging nor'easter along the west coast of Cape Breton Island, NS. Five seamen perished and 6 more crew members were washed ashore, near death. Mountainous waves had made it impossible to keep the bodies of the dead and unconscious men in the boat.

23

Yom Kippur  
Autumn Equinox 04:21 EDT

1950: Snow fell from Richmond Hill and Aurora in Ontario north to Algonquin Park. Officials called it the first September snow in a century. At Toronto, September snow had occurred only once in the 109 years since records were kept. Some parts of Northern Ontario such as Kirkland Lake and White River were blanketed with heavy snow.

24

2011: Just as Edmonton was getting ready to settle into fall, the hottest day of the year occurred—31.4°C—breaking a record set 10 years earlier of 29.3°C. Not everyone was enjoying the heat. The sweltering temperatures sparked a wildfire in northern Alberta and forced police to close one of the busiest roadways in the province.

25

2002: More than 49 vehicles, including 7 tractor trailers, were involved in a massive pileup east of Montreal that killed 1 and injured 17. The early morning mishap was caused by a combination of fog and blinding sunshine. At this time of year cooler night temperatures combine with moisture from the river, resulting in thick, soupy clouds that obscure everything.

26

2007: In Alberta an Edson bighorn-sheep hunter, trapped in a mountain canyon for 3 days, was so desperate to get warm that he set his shirt on fire to generate heat. He was using garbage bags to shelter from the wind, rain, and snow. He fired off rifle shots in the dark, hoping anyone nearby would suspect a poacher and call park officials.

27

1933: A powerful wind-storm (said to be a hurricane, but likely a tornado) blew along the North Thompson River valley in BC. A minimum of 10,000 boxes of apples were lost from Merritt to Vavenby, with many apples rolling away. Billboards, trees, vines, bushes, and fences were flattened. Green leaves lay ankle-deep on sidewalks.

28

2013: In Victoria, BC, a new monthly rainfall record of 119 mm was set, with 70 mm falling in 4 days. BC Ferries cancelled several sailings in and out of Vancouver. Peak wind gusts at Estevan Point reached 122 km/h. The Okanagan was also wet—the third wettest it had ever been. In Kelowna, a brief hailstorm bruised apples still on trees or stored on the ground in open bins.

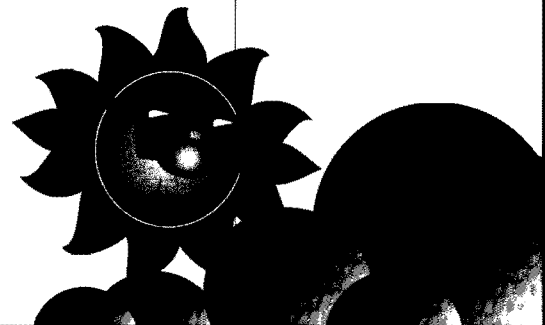
29

Weather Quiz  
Ontario experiences more tornadoes than any other province in Canada. Which province experiences the next most tornadoes?

30

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

Answer on inside back cover.



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# OCTOBER 2015

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Sunday

Monday

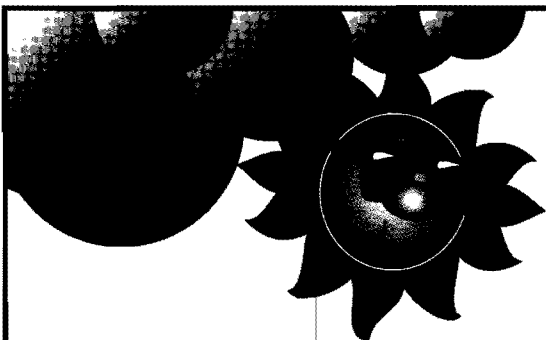
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



2002: Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip arrived in Iqaluit, NU, for the start of her Golden Jubilee tour in Canada. Large crowds welcomed the royal couple in sub-freezing temperatures and snow flurries.

4

1908: A tornado swept over the prairies near Winnipeg, MB. At Bird's Hill, the cyclone wrecked the general store, scattering its contents across the countryside. Winds also destroyed several shacks and a section of the railway track, and blew down telegraph poles. In one incident, a building was picked up off the ground, leaving the inhabitants sitting unharmed in the rain.

5

1853: En route for Quebec, QC, the passenger steamer *Lady Elgin* encountered strong winds and violent seas that washed 2 crewmen overboard. One of the men managed to take off his clothes and boots and swim to safety. A day later he resumed his duties on the *Lady Elgin*.

6

1928: A geology field party west of Baker Lake, NT, got lost in a blizzard. The group waited 5 days for a rescue plane before walking out. Travel over the snow and icy crust was so difficult that one person wore out 2 pairs of boots. Conditions were even worse when it turned mild and the snow softened, soaking their clothes and elderdown sleeping bags.

7

1975: An explosion killed 8 workers at a chemical plant in McMasterville, QC, near Montreal. A lightning strike beside the plant's 2 chimneys was followed in seconds by a white and green aura and then a red mushroom cloud. Businesses working with explosives have specific orders to shut down operations in the event of a lightning storm for this very reason.

1

1974: Widespread frost occurred across southern Ontario as nocturnal temperatures plunged. The cold spell also brought the season's first snow with 2 cm falling north of Toronto. In the Muskoka, including Bracebridge and Huntsville, 7 cm of wet snow fell, knocking down power lines and leaving half the region without power.

2

1903: A powerful storm with frequent lightning, thunder, and strong gale-force winds struck Thunder Bay, ON. The storm blew down a large steel bridge at CPR's new coal-handling plant. The winds twisted bridge girders into inconceivable shapes. Also damaged were an elevator, the plant's roof, and the smokestack at the roundhouse.

3

1997: The verdict of Alberta's top court was handed down on this day on an ongoing dispute between neighbours. It refused to overturn a lower court decision ordering a \$45,000 settlement to a man who had been hit with a 2-by-4 over while he was clearing and banking snow from his driveway.

9

1925: Winds and snow blew telegraph and telephone communications down in and around Quebec, QC. In Dorchester and Beauce counties, 10 cm of snow fell. About 30 vehicles became stranded along the Lévis-Jackman highway in drifts deeper than 1 m. At a point known as the Grande Côte, 5 cars were buried in the ditch.

10

1949: A wild storm featuring a record October rainfall of 75 mm in 24 hours and the lowest barometric pressure in Winnipeg's history lashed southern Manitoba. Scores of duck hunters became marooned in the Interlake district. With utilities down and out, hospital-care workers undertook hospital services by flashlight. Strong winds triggered countless burglar alarms.

11

1962: Gale-force winds from a fast-moving storm travelling north from California battered the British Columbia coast. Wind gusts were clocked at 125 km/h across Vancouver, strong enough to down trees and television antennas. Property damage was extensive, especially in Stanley Park. Isolated rural areas were without power and telegraph services for a week or more and 8 people died.

12

1893: Many residents in and around Toronto and Hamilton, ON, were drawn to the lakefront by a wild storm. Awnings, signboards, fences, shutters, and chimneys all suffered. At Toronto, the barometer reached its second lowest pressure ever. The foot and carriage bridge at Niagara Falls swayed and the wind blew several horses off the bridge or dashed them against its side.

13

1930: The prairies shivered in the clutch of the worst fall blizzard in years. The blustering snowstorm roared into Saskatchewan and Alberta, piling drifts high, blocking roads and tram services, and ending threshing. Fifteen cm of snow covered millions of bushels of unthreshed grain. Freezing rain lashed Moose Jaw, SK, and Saskatoon, SK, lay buried under 36 cm of snow.

14

2013: The exceptionally wet fall was a huge disappointment to Ontario residents and tourists wanting to view the fall colours. Owen Sound experienced their rainiest October on record with over 200 mm. Every day for 3 weeks was wet in Owen Sound. Indeed, the entire year broke wet weather records. By early December, yearly precipitation totalled a new record of 1,294 mm.

15

1876: A severe Atlantic storm ravaged parts of the Maritimes. The *Reeves*, an American schooner, struck the northwest side of Sable Island, NS. All hands were lost. The *Lily*, with a cargo of cordwood and potatoes, capsized off Cape St. Mary's, NS. Two of the crew held on to the deck, and succeeded in reaching the shore alive—bruised, bleeding, and chilled almost to death.

16

1936: A group of hunters from West Virginia faced a 16-day battle with sudden blizzards in the Muskwa River Valley of northern British Columbia. The men set out on horseback through snow up to the stirrups, facing screaming gales and crusted snowdrifts. Through the Sikanni Pass, several pack horses slid 40 m down the mountain before they were rescued with ropes.

17

Last Quarter

2012: Post-tropical storm Rafael blew past Newfoundland but whipped up wild seas that crashed through a breakwater in Trepassey. Damage to the breakwater, newly repaired following Hurricane Igor, left enough rubble on the main road to strand 20 families. Rafael only dropped 6 mm of rain but packed winds of 110 km/h on nearby Cape Race as she passed more than 500 km offshore.

18

1976: A resident of Newfoundland backed his car out of the driveway just as winds gusting to 160 km/h brought the roof of his rented townhouse crashing down on the asphalt. The severe windstorm flipped over parked aircraft, uprooted trees, damaged countless homes and public buildings, and smashed yachts and boats on the rocks. Two schools in the city were evacuated because of roof damage.

19

2013: A spectacular number of waterspouts were sighted over the Great Lakes—67 in total, with 54 and 13 over Lakes Ontario and Erie respectively. Many spouts lasted up to 15 minutes. It was a Great Lakes record, more than double the previous number. According to Wade Szilagyi, the world authority on waterspouts, it was also a world record for a single-day total.

20

1850: Following a series of storms in the upper reaches of the Saint John River, floodwaters became much higher than residents had ever seen at this season. The water near Fredericton, NB, rose 4 m, carrying away fences and large quantities of potatoes. Damage to hay and sawn lumber was extensive. Shingles, clapboards, logs, and square timber were adrift in almost every direction.

21

**Weather Quiz**  
The number of asthma admissions is greater on days with:

22

- 1) snow
- 2) rain
- 3) thunderstorms
- 4) high humidex
- 5) brutal wind chills

*Answer on inside back cover*

1957: Two hundred hunters were snowbound in the Coleman-Blairmore region of the Crownsnest Pass in Alberta for 4 or 5 days following a dump of 30 cm of snow. Motorists abandoned their vehicles owing to burned-out clutches and stripped gears, the result of battling deep drifts. At the Carbondale ranger station, about 60 people were stranded.

23

1966: Following 2 days of heavy rain and wind gusts up to 115 km/h in British Columbia, roads and bridges between Kitimat and Terrace and Prince George and Prince Rupert were closed; logging operations were also halted. More than 50 bridges were damaged along the Kitimat River but the residential area and the town's main industry, the Aluminum Co. of Canada smelter, were untouched.

24

2013: Thick fog blanketed Vancouver Island and the lower mainland of British Columbia for 10 days, one of the longest periods of fog ever seen in the region. With minimal wind and little rain, nothing could blow or wash the fog away. Dozens of ferry trips and hundreds of flights were cancelled. Vancouver recorded thick "pea-soup" fog for 122 hours; normal in October is 16 hours.

25

1923: Near Sault Ste. Marie, ON, a man was lost for nearly 3 weeks during an exceptionally stormy and cold time. He subsisted entirely on the few green leaves and berries still available, and a partridge he caught. Squirrels were too quick for him. Tracking him was impossible, as there had been a heavy fall of snow and then rain on the day following his disappearance.

26

1989: Snow and rain dampened farmers' hopes of salvaging crops in northeastern Alberta. Some put costly Caterpillar tracks or 4-wheel drives on their combine harvesters to try to recover deteriorating grain. Others simply wrote off the season.

27

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

28

1963: Hurricane Ginny zigzagged across the Maritimes with wind gusts up to 160 km/h. The storm sent ships scurrying for shelter and halted most ferry and air traffic. Motor-vehicle traffic on the Reversing Falls Bridge in Saint John, NB, was reduced when the bridge began to sway in heavy gusts. Yet, in the eye of the hurricane, the sun shone and it was dead calm.

29

1936: A violent storm ripped across the air force base at Trenton, ON, doing much damage and injuring more than a dozen people. The storm flattened the boiler facility, blew away part of an airplane hangar, and levelled countless trees and posts. A teacher and her students escaped injury by lying on their stomachs on the classroom floor.

30

1951: Halloween was quiet around Whitehorse, YT. Oh, there were some stories about the air being let out of tires, outhouses placed on front porches, and gates hung on trees, but no serious damages were reported. A wind of 80 km/h blowing through the city caused more damage than pranksters did, breaking windows and lifting roofs.

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# NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2013: 2013 was one of the wettest in 66 years and the Great Lakes' levels responded with a welcome rise. The level of Lake Ontario was above its 95-year long-term average, and Lakes Superior, St. Clair, and Erie were within 15 cm. While Lake Michigan-Huron remained 40 cm below the average, wet conditions kept it well above its record low levels.

1

2013: Powerful southwesterly winds wreaked havoc across southern Ontario and Quebec's St. Lawrence Valley, downing trees and power lines. Fierce wind gusts attained speeds of 100 km/h in Montreal, QC. Nearly 350,000 hydro customers were left in the dark. North of Montreal, winds littered a shopping centre with crushed scaffolding and severed a gas line.

2

1945: On Lake Superior between Caribou and Passage islands, a large wave caught the grain freighter *S.S. Bayton* astern. The huge roller swept over the ship's complete 140-m length. The captain said that in 55 years of sailing, he'd never seen anything like it. The ship sustained extensive damage to the dining room and living quarters. Crew members speculated that it was a tidal wave.

3

1856: A violent storm packing monster waves raged over the Upper Great Lakes and along the St. Lawrence River between Montreal and Longueuil, QC. The steamer *Iron Duke* ran aground on St. Helen's Island. Lumber was tossed in every direction, and signs and fences were blown down. In Montreal, a wooden house with a stone foundation was demolished.

4

1905: Lake Manitoba was solidly frozen over—a month sooner than normal. Not anticipating the brutal cold, the Mining Company of Gypsumville continued to run their boats, however, 2 of them became frozen in and sustained damage. Their crews escaped to safety by walking on the ice. It was feared that at spring break-up the vessels would be smashed to pieces.

5

2012: A man who couldn't find a place to sleep in Saint John, NB, asked police, "What do you have to do to get locked up around here?" Later, police were called to a jewellery store where the same man admitted throwing a brick through the window. At trial, the judge sentenced him to a month in jail, but the guilty man responded, "What about six? It's getting colder out there."

6

1907: One of the worst storms ever in Quebec inflicted extensive damage—fences, signs, and trees were blown down and carried away by hurricane-force winds. A drowned man's body was washed well inland. Power was cut to streetcars and city lights. The Lévis ferry as well as several schooners in the St. Charles River broke away from their moorings. A barge sank with 150 tonnes of coal on board.

7

All Saints' Day  
Daylight Saving Time Ends

Last Quarter 

1986: With the help of the Canadian military, Winnipeg-gers dug out from a monster blizzard. More than 35 cm of snow and 90-km/h winds created drifts up to 2 m. All transportation and commerce was stilled for 32 hours. Police used snowmobiles for patrols and authorized their use on city streets for some residents and business owners. Ambulances and fire engines struggled to answer emergency calls.

8

1995: Near Holman, NT, an Inuit hunter fell through thin ice on an inlet of Prince Albert Sound. His down parka, snowmobile pants, and caribou gloves became sodden and heavy. He thrashed through the salt water for 10 minutes, before spotting the nylon rope attached to the komatik of his snowmobile. Though he could feel himself blacking out, he used it to haul himself up onto the ice.

9

1996: The Edmonton Eskimos crushed the Winnipeg Blue Bombers 68-7 in a CFL playoff football game following a huge storm with 20 cm of snow. The Bombers were without proper shoes on the frozen stadium turf. The Eks hammered wood screws less than ½ cm into their soles. Metal studs would have been illegal as were any studs above ½ cm. One writer said that the Eks had screwed the Bombers.

10

Weather Quiz  
Which province/territory has the greatest range of extreme temperatures between the highest and lowest temperature ever recorded?

11

- 1) North West Territories
- 2) Alberta
- 3) Yukon Territory
- 4) Manitoba
- 5) Quebec

Answer on inside back cover

Remembrance Day New Moon 

1933: A huge dust storm extended from Alberta to Lake Superior and southward halfway to the Gulf of Mexico. People became terrified of the midday darkness. The next day in Niagara Falls, ON, dust fell in the drizzle, covering autos and buildings with a grey grime containing spores, diatoms, and fragments of plant and animal origin typical of pond sediment.

12

1990: At Yarmouth, NS, on the Atlantic coast, crashing waves hurled foam and spray for hundreds of metres. Wind gusts exceeding 125 km/h ripped the siding off a church. Waves splashed over a 15-m high rock anchoring the lighthouse. Trees falling on power lines triggered blackouts from Chester to Digby. The *Bluenose* was seen bobbing off the coast, waves crashing over its bow.

13

2000: Winds gusting over 40 km/h toppled a scaffold under the Ambassador Bridge spanning the Detroit River between Windsor, ON, and Detroit, MI. One worker plunged to his death in the icy waters. The US Coast Guard rescued 3 others. The hundreds of onlookers burst into cheers and applause when Windsor firefighters safely hauled in the last man dangling from the bridge.

14

1849: The official opening of the Halifax-Amherst-Portland telegraph circuit occurred on this day, as the first telegram arrived in Halifax, NS, from Saint John, NB. The first message simply read: "Great Storm at Portland—Saint John, November 15—10 buildings were blown down on Friday night. No other news per steamer."

15

2013: As much as 20 cm of snow fell in Red Deer, AB, accompanied by strong north-wind gusts up to 60 km/h. Whiteout conditions on icy roads led to 2 pileups involving more than 30 vehicles. The weather forced the cancellation of the Red Deer Santa Claus Parade, but not the Festival of Lights. More snow had already fallen this winter than the city would typically see by the end of January.

16

1920: Halifax residents faced precarious weather and driving conditions because of freezing rain that congealed on the pavement. High winds peaking at 70 km/h blew umbrellas inside out and flapped raincoats open so that pedestrians couldn't avoid getting wet. Hilly and sloping streets became turbulent rivers in some parts of the city, and it was impossible to cross streets without wading.

17

1958: A freighter on Lake Superior was battered for 4 hours by 8-m waves and 130-km/h winds before reaching safe harbour. The heavy plate-glass windows in the ship's wheelhouse were shattered by a giant wave. The force knocked out the ship-to-shore telephone, radar, and directional finder, and crushed the porthole in the captain's cabin. The ship's barometer had given no hint of the storm.

18

2002: The first crop of broccoli in PEI was good but the second was a big disappointment; it didn't mature enough when Indian summer failed to materialize. Acres and acres of broccoli rotted in the fields. Many growers didn't even bother to harvest the vegetable.

19

2010: In the Perth Fair Grounds in eastern Ontario, a team of volunteers inflated a silver weather balloon, hoping it would fly higher than one had ever been flown before. The instrument soared 40 km into the stratosphere, more than 3 times higher than commercial flights and a new record. Its landing point was 650 km away in Maine.

20

2013: A powerful winter storm hit western and central Newfoundland with winds of 140 km/h and heavy snow, triggering power outages. At Badger, about 25 utility poles were pulled down by the winds, causing the town to lose power and cutting off the water supply. Officials declared a state of emergency lasting 3 days. In the meantime, the Canadian Red Cross brought in water for residents.

21

1999: A 15-km ice jam lowered the outflow from Great Slave Lake, dropping water levels on the Mackenzie River by more than a metre. This effectively cut off Yellowknife, YT, from the only highway to the south because the ferry couldn't run; the draft of the vessel exceeded the depth of the water. Engineers could not even clear the blockage with dynamite.

22

2013: A very rare late-season tornado touched down north of Prescott, ON. The EF-1 tornado featuring winds of 150 km/h wrecked a farm silo and inflicted other minor property damage. It was one of the latest tornadoes ever reported in Canada and occurred in a blizzard of snow and hail with freezing temperatures. Dave Sills, Canadian tornado expert, called it Canada's first "snownado."

23

2013: Cold arctic air plunged across southern Ontario, turning on the lake-effect snow engine to the lee of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. London received 32 cm of snow, but close to St. Thomas steady streamers dumped as much as 70 cm. Northeast, near Barrie, whiteouts triggered collisions involving 40 vehicles on Highway 400. Vehicles careened off each other with many ending up in ditches.

24

2006: For the last 2 weeks, much of western Canada had suffered from a vast, dense pool of cold air that sat over Yukon, YT—the coldest in about 10 years. In Saskatoon, SK, university football players bravely competed in the Vanier Cup, while their even braver 13,000 fans faced wind chills of  $-30$ . The footballs were like frozen blocks and so heavy that 2 split when kicked during practice.

25

2013: A storm nicknamed the Butterball Blizzard fouled up the American Thanksgiving for millions of Americans. The sprawling storm also spread heavy snows into eastern Ontario and Quebec. Ottawa and district took the brunt of the storm with up to 25 cm, causing hazardous driving conditions. For many centres in eastern Canada it was the first snowfall of the winter.

26

2013: The American Thanksgiving storm lashed Atlantic Canada with driving rain, strong winds, high waves, and pounding surf, leaving 50,000 hydro customers in the dark. In Newfoundland, wind gusts peaked at 130 km/h on the west coast and the south saw 110 mm of rain. It wreaked havoc on roadways, tangled up hundreds of flights and ferries, and restricted traffic across the Confederation Bridge.

27

2006: Calgary's temperature of  $-30.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $-40$  with the wind chill, was the coldest on record in 110 years. At zoos in Edmonton and Calgary, cold-tolerant animals ate twice as much food to stay warm. To prevent boredom among warm-blooded animal, keepers moved branches and swings around, provided new plants to smell and chew, or played games by putting food in different objects.

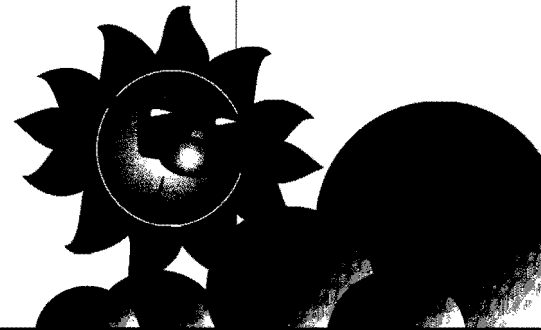
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1935: A landslide swept away 3 houses at Voy's Beach (Humber Arm), NL, but everyone got out in time. It happened during a rainstorm that lasted 40 hours. During the storm, a store at Middle Arm was also swept away by a landslide.

29

2013: Arctic air from the Yukon, with temperatures around  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ , pushed southward into British Columbia, leading to significant snowfalls over high mountain passes. Snowfall totals included 61 cm at Kootenay Pass and 32 cm at the Coquihalla Summit, and around 20 cm at lower elevations in Cranbrook. The frigid air helped ski resorts groom white gold on their slopes for an early December opening.

30



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# DECEMBER 2015

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31

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

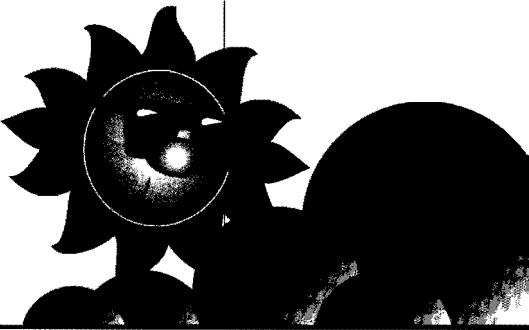
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		<p>1919: The steamer <i>Hamonic</i> left Sault Ste. Marie, ON, and ran into some weather hazards: snow, gale, mist, fog, and ice from Superior's freezing spray. The captain called it the worst weather he had ever experienced. His ship was the only one out. On arrival in Port Arthur (Thunder Bay) the ship was encrusted in ice glitter, her rigging a million shining icicles, and her decks sheets of ice.</p>	<p>1932: Following 3 days of heavy rains totaling 86 mm, drift debris began collecting along rivers, threatening highways and bridges around Pitt Meadows, BC. An SPCA inspector rescued 55 head of cattle, although some animals drowned. While in the flooded fields, the officer confronted several salmon swimming up to his car, apparently attracted to the headlights.</p>	<p>1974: Owners of shoreline property in Miramichi, NB, assessed the heavy damage incurred by unusually high and devastating tides in Chaleur Bay. Described as the worst storm in memory, the heavy sea swept away summer cottages, winterized dwellings and breakwaters. The tides also swept sand up from the beach, past cottages and onto the road to a depth of 1 m.</p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p>2013: A triple winter threat—snow, wind, and cold—descended across southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Blizzard conditions prevailed, isolating motorists and forcing snowplough operators off the highways. Calgary recorded 50 hours of snow over 4 days, much of it blown by winds gusting to 74 km/h. Wind-chill readings dipped to -46. Lethbridge was the coldest place in Canada at -34°C.</p>	<p>1900: It snowed for 20 hours in Halifax. Such a heavy fall of snow so early in the season was unusual and, as a consequence, people were unprepared. Drifts became humongous. Gangs of men with large teams of horses worked long hours to keep streets clear. The Tram Company kept their lines open with sweepers and ploughers.</p>
<p>1867: A storm—the most severe in many years—struck London, ON. Buildings lost roofs, barns blew down, and fences were scattered. In nearby Plympton, the schoolhouse was crushed by a falling tree. Fortunately, a concerned school trustee had persuaded a reluctant teacher to dismiss the school just minutes before the tree came crashing down.</p>	<p>2013: Alberta was among the most frigid places anywhere. At -40°, Leedale had the lowest temperature recorded anywhere on Earth. The <i>Edmonton Journal</i> reported that it took 80 minutes for a medium double-double coffee to freeze solid from a start-up temperature of 85°C. In Calgary, 25 people were treated for frostbite and hypothermia, and water pipes cracked.</p> <p>First Day of Hanukkah</p>	<p>1925: Under cover of a thick layer of dense fog, 3 youths attempted to break into the rear of a store in downtown Vancouver, BC, but got away after being spotted by a patrol constable. The trio fled down the lane in the back of the store, then turned west onto Howe Street where they disappeared in the fog. The constable fired a warning shot, but the youths failed to heed it.</p>	<p>1963: Residents of northern Ontario dug out from one of the worst blizzards in years. Timmins and Kapuskasing received 35 cm of snow in 13 hours. Drifts 3 m high blocked main highways and town roads. Four hunters snowbound in the Black Sturgeon area near Lake Nipigon were brought out by snowmobile. Three companions were not so lucky.</p>	<p>1929: Welland, ON, and vicinity took stock of the enormous damage caused by the worst ice storm in the city's history. The icy rain paralyzed traffic and took down telephone and telegraph lines and 200 poles. Customers were without power for days. Newspapers were also crippled by lack of news material transmitted over the telegraph.</p>	<p>2007: A 6-km ice jam caused the Nechako River in Prince George, BC, to overflow its banks. The flood threat forced the evacuation of 13 families and dozens of businesses. The ice formed early in December when temperatures dropped to around -30°C. As it got warmer, the softened ice plugged the discharge. Work crews built a snow dam and filled sandbags to block rising waters.</p> <p>New Moon ●</p>	<p>1843: Lightning struck a farmhouse at Speke, PE. The "electric fluid" entered a window and crossed near a sleeping farmer, knocking out several teeth and singeing his hair. The flash blackened the walls, perforated clothes, and shattered a chest of drawers. Lightning also tore up the floor of the milk house, smashing vessels filled with cream, but did not touch the crockery on the shelves.</p>
<p>2013: A train heading to Sept-Îles, QC, broke down outside Labrador City, NL, in temperatures around -30°C. The 270 passengers on board, including children and 2 pregnant women waited 8 hours in the unheated train while drinking water and toilets froze solid. When the train could not be restarted, Labrador City sent out buses to take passengers to warmth and safety.</p>	<p>1906: With enduring cold, little or no coal and wood almost as scarce, a fuel famine occurred across the Prairies. Citizens besieged the offices of fuel dealers in the vain hope of securing either a pound of coal or a stick of wood. Public buildings such as the hospital and electric-light station ran short of fuel, and schools closed down.</p>	<p>1997: Record-high temperatures in the west had Saskatonians playing golf and picking up Christmas trees on their way home. Meanwhile, freak snowstorms and bitter cold struck northern Mexico, leaving at least 12 dead and paralyzing highways and ports. It snowed in Guadalajara (as much as 40 cm) for the first time since 1881. Temperatures were -15°C in Chihuahua State.</p>	<p>1929: According to old-timers, the snow blanketing the southern Alberta foothills was the deepest in 20 years. Up to 2 m of wet snow on the roof of the swimming pool and dance pavilion in Waterton National Park collapsed the structures. Trees snapped off and park roads became impassable. Fears were expressed that deer would be slaughtered wholesale by wolves and coyotes.</p>	<p>1868: The thaw across southern Ontario threatened to spoil the sleighing, but fortunately, during the night, a sharp frost set in and the snow roads firmed up. The loss of the sleighing before Christmas would cause considerable loss to commerce.</p>	<p>2012: A vigorous low-pressure system moved over the BC south coast, spreading snow driven by strong winds. At Vancouver Airport, 20 cm of snow fell and wind gusts peaked above 50 km/h. Most people didn't have winter tires on and the early-morning freezing rain created a commuting nightmare. Many motorists waited more than 3 hours to get onto some ice-slick bridges.</p>	<p>1831: A severe easterly gale at high tide forced the waters of the St. Lawrence River to rise to a height not seen in many years. Lower parts of several buildings in old Quebec City were submerged. Water also took out wooden foot paths and fences between the sea and the downtown. Ships and boats were driven across the street into fences. Damage to commerce was heavy.</p>

<p>2011: The SPCA in Saskatchewan reported that a lack of snow had caused dehydration in cattle. It's not uncommon for ranchers to expect their pastured cattle to eat snow rather than supplying water. But that didn't work so well this year with the lack of snowfall. Some animals have already been found in distress.</p>	<p>2013: The weekend before Christmas a vigorous winter storm coated parts of eastern Canada with a thick mixture of snow and freezing rain. Over 500,000 people were without power, some for weeks. Toronto, ON, was the epicentre of the freezing rain, receiving more than 2 years' worth in two days. Some streets lost 80 per cent of their mature tree canopy.</p> <p>Winter Solstice 23:48 EST</p>	<p>2002: The <i>Surfing Santa</i> set sail from Fort Erie, ON, on a windsurfing jaunt down the Niagara River that landed him in the arms of US border guards when wind and waves pushed him off course. The adventurer, who performs the stunt in support of the homeless, was returned to Canada after he signed a form stating he had entered the US illegally.</p>	<p>1950: Freakishly, the weather changed over 15 minutes from remarkably mild to a severe blizzard. This led to a tragic aircraft accident north of Red Lake, ON, in which 2 people lost their lives. It appeared that the pilot's visibility must have been totally obscured as he was suddenly flying head-on into the ice.</p>	<p>2013: Much of southern and eastern Ontario was abuzz with speculation following nocturnal noisy booms. These were "frost quakes" —water and ice in the ground freezing and expanding, often after a sudden change of temperature. The expanding subterranean ice causes a loud boom, heard better at night when background noises are less and winds are lighter.</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>1909: In Newfoundland, 11 schooners and their total crew of 60 men were lost in a Christmas blizzard that raged over 6 days. Destruction was also extensive inland with telegraph lines down everywhere. Placentia was flooded for 3 days and the main street resembled an ocean beach piled high with flotsam cast up by the unusually high tides. The village of Back Head was almost swept away.</p> <p>Christmas Full Moon</p>	<p>1980: Evacuations were under way in Hope and Princeton, BC, as record rainfall and warm temperatures created massive flooding. In addition, washouts, mudslides, and the threat of avalanches closed major highways through the Fraser Canyon, snarling holiday travel plans for thousands. It was the warmest Boxing Day on record at several centres, including Vancouver where the high was 15°C.</p> <p>Boxing Day</p>
<p>Weather Quiz</p> <p>What invention celebrated its 110th birthday in 2015?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the snow blower</li> <li>2) sunshine recorder</li> <li>3) earmuffs</li> <li>4) windshield wipers</li> <li>5) umbrella</li> </ol> <p>Answer on inside back cover</p>	<p>2012: A winter storm that blasted much of eastern Canada moved into Newfoundland, dumping up to 30 cm of snow. Wind gusts were 100 km/h along the south coast, with 142 km/h gusts in the Wreckhouse region. Flights and ferries faced delays and cancellations. The powerful nor'easter also brought weather misery and pounding surf. Gagetown, NB, got 38 cm of snow.</p>	<p>1925: While making her way through dense fog, the steamer <i>Cowichan</i>, bound for Vancouver from northern logging camps, was rammed by the passenger liner <i>Lady Cynthia</i>. The liner's captain kept its nose jammed in the steamer until all on board had been safely transferred. Moments after <i>Lady Cynthia</i> backed away, the <i>Cowichan</i>, with a gaping hole in its side, went to the bottom.</p>	<p>1926: River waters rose 2 m at Longueuil, QC, flooding more than 200 homes. Families retreated to the upper floors of their dwellings. Weeping children and anxious mothers, bundled in overcoats and blankets, huddled in shivering groups watching ice floes float by their windows while their menfolk paddled about in boats attempting to rescue their livestock from the rising waters.</p>	<p>1945: Footprints in the soft crust of snow led police over fences and across streets to a yard at the rear of a house in Toronto, ON, where they found a young murder suspect crouching in an upstairs clothes closet. He was one of the young thugs alleged to have been terrorizing east-end neighbourhoods.</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>		



# WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

- January: 1) Winnipeg's average January temperature
- February: 3) Astana, Kazakhstan
- March: 5) avalanche winds
- April: 3) 10 days
- May: 1) less than a week
- June: 2) Calgary
- July: 4) Sunday
- August: 5) Kelowna
- September: 5) Saskatchewan
- October: 3) thunderstorms
- November: 2) Alberta
- December: 4) windshield wipers