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# JANUARY 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1901:</b> A CPR passenger train left Brandon, MB, but after passing Mauer, it became snowbound in drifts 5 to 6 m deep. Officials sent out two engines to bring the express back but they too became stuck. The three trains remained snowbound for a week and were not freed until farmers for 30 km around formed a shovel brigade. No one died, but hundreds of people froze noses and ears.</p> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p><b>1922:</b> Stripped of her sails, iced-up, and unmanageable, the schooner <i>Alexandra</i>, carrying a cargo of fish, was driven ashore near Ingonish, NS. Because the blinding snow prevented hope of rescue, in desperation, the master tied a line to his waist, jumped into the icy water, and fought his way to shore. Luckily, the howling blizzard ceased for a spell, and the master was able to drag his crew to safety.</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> A 27-year-old lay minister from Winnipeg, MB, was lost in Whiteshell Provincial Park. With wolves roaming, he prayed and then built a quinzhee—a rough igloo in the snow. The next day, after digging out from newly fallen snow, he wandered, and too exhausted to build another quinzhee, he gave up, shivering so much that he couldn't sleep. One day later, he was found by the RCMP.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>1929:</b> Two bush pilots in an open cockpit made a brave trip from Edmonton to Fort Vermilion, AB, in bitter cold to deliver some diphtheria antitoxin. Wind chill was -65 for the mercy flight. They wore buffalo coats, boots and leggings, 7 pairs of socks, and lined leather flying helmets, goggles, and scarves. At the end of the flight, when taking off his silk scarf, one pilot also took off part of his lip.</p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Perihelion 12:00 AM EST</p>	<p><b>1904:</b> Notes from a Yukon musher: "Left Dawson and in 4 days reached McQuesten. The weather turned bitterly cold. Old-timers said the wind at Crooked Creek would blow the hair off a dog. I carried a handkerchief tied over my face covering everything but my eyes ... The only thing that did give me anxiety was my nose and the mass of ice I was carrying in front of my face, the latter making breathing difficult. [from E. C. Stahl, <i>Dawson News</i>]"</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Victoria, BC, got more than 20 cm of snow, producing extremely slippery road conditions. Heavy snow jammed traffic as motorists crept along streets at half-speed. City work crews stopped pulling leaves from clogged water drains, and instead uncovered stockpiles of salt. On the mainland, police were busy with ditched vehicles, fender-benders, and car thefts. Local taxis doubled their business.</p> <p><b>6</b></p> <p>First Quarter ☉</p>	<p><b>2005:</b> The weather turned ugly at Tuktoyaktuk, NT, a hamlet of about 1,000 people. During the storm, temperatures dipped below -30°C, winds topped 117 km/h, some homes lost power for 5 days, and water and sewage services were unavailable. Five houses froze solid, likely with burst pipes and ruined pumps. One family without power was forced to melt snow over a camp stove for water to flush their toilet.</p> <p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>1913:</b> An engineer proposed building a series of jetties 10 m high above the ocean bed in order to deflect the cold Labrador Current. He felt that within months a wall of sand would be high enough to deflect the cold current. He estimated the total project cost at \$190 million. His plan was to send warm Gulf Stream waters into the very heart of the Arctic. The warm current would melt the polar ice cap, thus, the earth would swing around a bit on its polar axis and present more direct solar rays to regions that are now uninhabitable.</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Authorities found more than 150 beef cattle dead at a feedlot in central Alberta. Most were frozen stiff; live ones were so weak they couldn't lift their heads. A vet blamed it on their feed which was too strong, causing a buildup of stomach gas and eventual death. This was aggravated by the vicious cold. As snow built up on the dying cattle, they bunched together in the biting -20°C temperatures.</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>Which is the sunniest province in winter?</p> <p><b>10</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Saskatchewan</li> <li>2) New Brunswick</li> <li>3) Manitoba</li> <li>4) Alberta</li> <li>5) British Columbia</li> </ol> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p><b>1918:</b> Heavy snow falls and cold weather drove wild animals into several Saskatchewan cities. Coyotes and rabbits, among other animals, were seen in Regina. An adventuresome coyote even visited a home for the elderly. The animals came seeking food because the prairies were deep in snow. A 5-year-old girl yelled to her mother to come see a wolf just like the one that had eaten little Red Riding Hood.</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Following several days of snow, rain, and freezing rain, Vancouver, BC, distributed more than 95 tonnes of free de-icing salt to 11,000 residents. At times, the lineup to get salt was almost 5 blocks long. In 3 days, officials stopped the free distribution because of decreased demand and the coming of warm weather.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> It was the coldest day of the winter on the prairies with temperatures dipping to -39°C and wind chills to -50. In an Edmonton, AB, seniors' residence, ice buildup caused a furnace malfunction. Firefighters arrived and evacuated around 40 residents. Said one 83-year-old: "I quickly threw on something and got my boots and my dentures. Because that is the worst thing—to be caught without dentures."</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>1923:</b> During a snow-storm the fox ranches in and around Charlottetown, PE, became so badly banked with snow that some 30 or 40 toxes walked out over the wire fences to freedom.</p> <p><b>14</b></p> <p>Full Moon ☾</p>
<p><b>1950:</b> The Laurentian hills in Quebec were green or ice-covered from recent rains. Resort hotels were almost empty. Feeling the pinch in lost snow business, workers at winter resorts went to church to pray for snow. Most locals dependent on a winter-tour economy such as hotel and kitchen staff, taxi drivers, and shopkeepers asked for divine intervention to bring snow to save them from an economic disaster.</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>1935:</b> During a dazzling display of lightning about 25 cm of snow fell on parts of Vancouver, its multicolored effect rivalling any sunset or rainbow. Almost 250 tobogganists had fun sliding down a steep city street, often stopping motorists to get a tow up. Two city workers shovelled and sanded the surface, thus spoiling the hill for sleighing. The sleigh-riders retaliated by sweeping away the sand.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Blizzard conditions plagued parts of the Maritimes with up to 50 cm of snow and winds gusting to 90 km/h. Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe was to begin a 2-day visit there, but the bad weather prompted him to postpone his visit. Greenwood, NS, was hit hardest with 39 cm of snow; Sydney got 31 cm of snow before it turned to freezing rain. Only one restaurant in downtown Charlottetown was open.</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Southwestern BC's cold spell came to an abrupt end in a "tropical punch" featuring days of torrential rain. The Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island experienced heavy flooding as more than 127 mm of rain fell over 24 hours in some areas. Catch basins and ditches overflowed. A mudslide swept a house off the lower slope of Mount Seymour, killing a woman.</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>1935:</b> Sentenced to serve 10 years for slaying a fellow Inuk, the prisoner feared Manitoba's weather even at -35°C was too tropical for him and petitioned the Department of Justice to let him serve the remainder of his sentence in a more northern climate. Accustomed to an open life in the Arctic, the humidity of Manitoba's winter distressed him and his health was failing.</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Cold arctic air engulfed Ontario with temperatures dipping to below -25°C in the southern reaches of the province. A homeless man in Chatham became hypothermic after he was trapped in a clothing donation box that he had climbed into for warmth. It fell over, trapping him inside. The next morning someone heard his cry for help. In another incident, a woman died from hypothermia in a creek in Tilbury.</p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>1929:</b> Floods that drowned 3 at railway washouts in eastern Ontario and caused enormous property damage receded following colder weather and drying winds. In Belleville several horses and cattle drowned, and residents were marooned with many narrow escapes. In one incident, floodwaters completely covered a vehicle east of Belleville, trapping 5 young people inside. One person swam 200 m for help.</p> <p><b>21</b></p>

**2005:** A nine-year-old's cat named Nature disappeared in Truro, NS, after Hurricane Juan 15 months ago. A year later, Nature turned up at a house 2 km away where they kept Nature for their own daughter. When the family took the cat in for spaying, the vet found a tattoo identifying the real owner. Coincidentally, both mothers worked at the same Sunday school. Nature was returned to her first owner.

22

Last Quarter ●

**2005:** While clearing a deep drift on his roof, a Winnipeg, MB, man found himself staring at a boa constrictor almost 2 m long. After he knocked the snake off his roof, the snake began to uncoil, leading the man to believe it was alive. A snake expert explained. Mobility for a boa in freezing weather is next to nil, if at all. He figured that someone had tossed it up there, dead or alive.

23

**1924:** A large icicle crashed 12 m from a roof, fracturing the skull of a Montreal teen walking to work. He suffered a fatal 10-cm gash to the top of his skull. In addition, he sustained a fractured shin and a number of minor injuries. Police arrested the owner of the house and charged him with violating a bylaw regarding cleaning snow and ice from rooftops. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 and costs.

24

**2005:** People in western Newfoundland dug themselves out from another huge dump of snow—118 cm of snow so far in January. The most recent blizzard saw schools and businesses closed and travel disrupted. Plows were taken off side roads. Because of the abundant snow from many storms, most sidewalks and roads were narrower than usual. For the month as a whole, 163.4 cm of snow fell, a new record for January.

25

**1932:** Heavy snow blanketed Vancouver, BC, and vicinity, slowing traffic and causing widespread damage. The second storm in 2 weeks extended as far east as Agassiz. Thick snow blanketed the waterfront, reducing visibility to a few hundred metres and causing navigators anxiety as they crept into and out of the harbour. Gale-force winds created blizzard conditions, leading to the collision of 2 ships.

26

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

27

**1933:** A huge snow-storm in southern New Brunswick created 3-m drifts that buried a train engine near Grangeville and stalled a southbound snowplow from Newcastle in a deep drift. The largest CNR engine was sent to help clear the tracks without knowing the exact location of the snowbound trains. At 8:15 PM the *Northern* crashed through the drift, wrecking one train and tragically killing 3 railway men.

28

**1894:** A storm in southern Quebec blew with hurricane-force winds. Snow buried streets and rail lines. Most conceded it was the most severe storm in years. The blockage delayed trains from Boston for up to 5 hours. A violent gust toppled a conveyor on the CPR wharf smashing the warehouse, cutting it in two and from top to bottom, and spreading the pieces apart. Much of it was lying in the water.

29

**1908:** In brutally cold weather with temperatures hovering around -29°C, Montreal, QC, firefighters responded to one of the most spectacular conflagrations ever—at a paint and oil firm. The oils and varnishes kept feeding the flames inside the building. Outside, firefighters, in attempting to reach the top of the ladder, froze fast to the rungs halfway up at least half a dozen times.

30

**1931:** In Vancouver, BC, the provincial soccer final happened in thickening fog, making it impossible to follow the play. Occasionally, a few fans clapped when they could see ghostlike figures. The referee gave a late penalty that was neatly converted and then called the game, with 20 minutes to go. Yet, it wasn't any foggier than when the game began. Two minutes after the game was called, the fog lifted.

31

Chinese New Year New Moon ●

Islamic New Year

**JANUARY**

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# FEBRUARY 2006

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			<p><b>1908:</b> A lengthy and violent snowstorm in eastern Ontario blocked roads and downed lines, cutting off communications with rural districts at Brockville. A train of cattle destined for Montreal sat on a siding for 24 hours in -20°C weather. Few animals survived. The heavy snow also collapsed the roof of Picton's skating rink. The rink caretaker evacuated children promptly and safely.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>1923:</b> A rash of accidents occurred on streets in Vancouver, BC, following a light snowfall and freezing temperatures. In one serious collision, a bobsleigh loaded with young people crashed into the rear of a heavy truck, swinging the truck around completely. Several pedestrians slipped on icy sidewalks, breaking legs and hips, and incurring numerous bruises and contusions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>1947:</b> Wind-packed snowdrifts blanketed the southern Prairies. Only aircraft could move about freely. Farmers fed poultry for 10 days by dropping grain down ventilators, the only part of buildings visible above the deep snow. In Regina, SK, office tenants were advised to stay away due to a lack of coal. The CPR enlisted 40 volunteers to go out with 4 locomotives to free a buried train near Moose Jaw, SK.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Montreal endured a week-long smog spell caused by residential wood stoves emitting fine particulates. After the ice storm in 1998, many people bought wood burning heaters. Contaminants found in wood smoke can provoke new or aggravate existing respiratory problems. Environmental groups want the government to ban the sale of wood stoves that do not meet critical emission standards.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>
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<p><b>1899:</b> In 1959, a veteran Yukoner was remembering a cold wave that gripped the territory 60 years ago, when the mercury froze and all ravens went south. No one ventured out except in an emergency. Local prospectors spent their time indoors in warm cabins washing gold nuggets while baking bread with a "gleam in their eye thinking of the good times to come when they sluiced the dump in spring."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Recent mild weather in central Canada meant that some animals started mating earlier than usual, the earliest in 20 years. Animals that are normally hibernating were heard scratching, chewing, scurrying, and shrieking in attics, walls, chimneys, and other indoor hideaways. With a gestation period of 63 days, raccoons were expected to give birth a month earlier, during the first week of March.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>1950:</b> A Greyhound bus, rounding an icy curve west of Winnipeg, MB, crashed through a bridge guardrail and plummeted 3 m into a snow-filled slough. Twenty-nine passengers scrambled to safety before the bus burst into flames. A semi-trailer loaded with cattle turned over as it came to a stop 50 m away from the burning bus. Rain, snow, plunging temperatures, and a 60-km/h wind were factors in the mishap.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1867:</b> A drenching rainstorm combined with fast-melting snow raised stream levels to flood stage in southern New Brunswick. The strong flow pushed small buildings from their foundations and destroyed several bridges, including a suspension bridge at Norton, one of the "neatest" constructions in the county. Two days later temperatures plunged more than 40 degrees, encasing roads and rail lines in ice.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>1861:</b> A storm over southern Quebec was the severest in 40 years. Never before had the temperature been below -40°C with wind and deep snow, producing a modern-day wind chill of -65. A man with no money to pay his fare was put off a train near Montreal and was found next morning sitting upright by the track, frozen to death. Sometimes 4 to 8 locomotives were needed to plow through huge snow banks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p> <p>Groundhog Day</p>	<p><b>1930:</b> An Inuit hunter lost his way in a horrible blizzard at Atlatami on the Hudson Bay coast. Without food, shelter, and his knife for cutting snow blocks for an igloo, he wandered for 2 days to keep from freezing to death. Then he lay down and slept. When he awoke, the storm had abated and he found himself within 300 m of the camp. At the hospital in The Pas, he asked only for raw meat—no moose!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>1951:</b> An unprecedented 3-day downpour, over 300 mm in places, followed by 15 cm of snow, inundated parts of the Fraser Valley, BC, forcing hundreds to flee. When temperatures plunged, parts of the valley became a vast skating pond. Chilliwack was hardest hit with a metre of water threatening the water supply. Three people perished. Schools closed and rail lines were severed by mudslides and washouts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p>
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<p><b>1938:</b> From 30 to 50 cm of snow blanketed Manitoba, blocking highways and roads, isolating towns and villages, and forcing the railways to run snowplows to clear tracks. Drifts blocked highways and grounded airplanes, including the mail planes. Communities thought they would have to go without weekend milk deliveries; however, sturdy horses pulling wagons or sleighs managed to get through.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p> <p>Full Moon ☽</p>	<p><b>1923:</b> In Edmonton, AB, shivering crowds waited for streetcars as the temperatures plunged to -34°C. But that was nothing compared to the -50°C at House River and Fort McMurray. Saskatchewan also suffered. Trains from the east ran 2 to 10 hours late and a northern gale piled snow high. At Langbank, SK, a passenger train ran into the rear of a stalled snowplow; the plow's caboose broke into kindling.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>1950:</b> A major winter storm in southern Ontario killed 5, left 100 homeless, and thousands stranded. Three-metre waves on Lake Ontario broke over cottages, filled homes with muddy water, and pushed entire structures into the lake. Dozens of travellers spent the night huddled in cars, and buses stalled or got stuck in snow on local highways. The Canadian Red Cross set up soup kitchens and handed out free meals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>	<p><b>1936:</b> Drifting snow hampered astronomers hunting for a meteorite that fell to Earth close to Winnipeg, MB. Told about the fireball's flight, no one in the north reported a sighting. Travelling at a speed faster than a rifle bullet, the flaming projectile would, if it did come to Earth, plough its way a considerable depth into the soil. Blowing snow would have covered the hole it made in the ground.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p> <p>National Flag Day of Canada</p>	<p><b>1959:</b> Following the greatest daily snowfall in St. John's ever, 55 cm in one day, the city was at a standstill. Digging out of 5-m snowdrifts in winds approaching 200 km/h was hard. The storm blocked city streets and cut off power and telephone service. The only way out was on foot. A snow slide at China Rock near the harbour entrance suffocated 5 people. Nine others were trapped, one of them for 12 hours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>2005:</b> In one 3-hour period, Toronto, ON, paramedics responded to 107 calls from icy tumbles—double the normal number during one of the busiest slip-and-fall periods in years. Warm weather over 2 days melted the snow, leaving puddles on sidewalks and streets. When temperatures dropped below freezing, standing water froze into hazardous patches of ice camouflaged by a light dusting of snow.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>1932:</b> Bringing stories of hardship, rain, snow, cold (-30°C), unfriendly timber wolves, and friendly humans, a young man from France arrived in Halifax, completing his 4-month hike from Five Lakes, SK. Tired but 5 kg heavier, the adventurer recounted his experiences on his 5,400-km trek. He stayed in Halifax to the end of the month before sailing home.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p>
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**2005:** About 40 bone-weary men reached their goal of playing the longest ice hockey game ever—more than 10 days—skating 2 days beyond the record held by residents of Moosomin, SK, and qualifying them for an entry in *Guinness World Records*. Temperatures during the game ranged from 12° to -15°C. The game was played on a homemade rink in Edmonton, AB. The score was about 1,700 to 1,600.

19

**1921:** Nova Scotia was snowbound. Although only 20 cm tell in Halifax, a 60-km wind generated drifts more than 1 m deep. The storm tied up all railway services. Hundreds of unemployed men were put to work shovelling snow for days. The police courts, usually crowded, were almost empty. The country roads were impassable, and there was no mail delivery for several days.

20

**1999:** Fog was blamed for a massive power outage affecting 14,000 homes in Calgary, AB. A hydro official explained that thick fog moistened electrical insulators, knocking out 2 major substations. At this time of year, moisture combines with the buildup of dirt and road salt, creating voltage leaks that result in frequent power outages. In some cases, hydro poles catch on fire.

21

**1898:** Suddenly and without a moment's warning, a snowslide triggered by a landslide killed 4 people at Point Levis, QC. One house was crushed by the weight of snow, while the upper stories of another were torn clean above the first storey, and overturned in front of it upon the street. The entire family escaped serious injury.

22

**2005:** An American suffered severe frostbite after trying to walk from North Dakota to Winnipeg, MB, to meet his Internet sweetheart in Quebec. Equipped with warm clothing, a compass, trail mix, and water, he soon lost his way. When found, he was incoherent and had covered only 7 km in 100 hours in -30.8°C weather. His hands were frozen solid and he was shedding clothing—a tell-tale sign of hypothermia.

23

**2005:** Nunavut politicians took a snow day as a raging blizzard forced the government to cancel the tabling of its 2005–06 budget in the legislature in Iqaluit. Said Nunavut's finance minister: "I don't think in the history of Canada there's ever been a budget cancelled because of the weather." With winds gusting to 91 km/h in fresh snow, it was a complete whiteout. Even Iqaluit's taxis stopped running.

24

**1948:** A logger took ill in his cabin about 20 km south of Atlin, BC. He and his buddy started off across the ice to get help. About 200 m off shore, the ice started caving and the logger fell in. At the time it was -20°C. The survivor escaped a similar fatal accident, but, soaked to the skin, he was forced to return to his own cabin, at times having to roll himself along the ice to set his clothing free.

25

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

26

**Weather Quiz**  
Who said "In all my experience, I have never been in any accident ... or any sort worth speaking about"?

27

(Answer on inside back cover)

New Moon ●

**1959:** A heavy winter snowfall in Ontario added enormous strain to roof trusses of cottages and buildings throughout the province. The roof of the arena in Listowel collapsed killing 8, including 7 children under 12 years. Cars sped to the scene carrying volunteer rescue workers. At Hanover, a collapsed barn roof smothered 15,000 turkeys. And near Huntsville, a curling rink collapsed, killing 3 and injuring 8.

28

Last Quarter ◐

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# MARCH 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p><b>2005:</b> Abandoning their large canoe in open water when the motor's gas line froze during a blizzard, 4 aboriginal walrus hunters scrambled onto a chunk of passing ice. Without warning, a huge wave swept an elderly hunter into the ocean. Just as unexpectedly, another monster wave literally picked him up and threw him back onto the ice. A helicopter rescue brought the hunters safely home to Cape Dorset, NU.</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p><b>1847:</b> Heavy winds over several days drifted snow across southern Quebec, making roads nearly impassible. Around Stanstead, businesses of all kinds consequently dulled and slowed to nothing. That venerable person, the "oldest inhabitant," affirmed that this winter, based on what he had heard, was very much like that of 1717, when the snow fell so deep that "people walked out of their second storey windows."</p>	<p><b>1925:</b> At Port Nelson, MB, a railway official went out on the ice to visit some traps. Soon, the ice became detached, and the tide carried him out to sea. Leaving no trace, he was given up as lost. The temperature was -31°C, but there was little wind. The ice floe traveled 40 km to sea, but miraculously, the next day, the tide returned the ice floe ashore to almost the same place where it started.</p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Police and school officials in Hamilton, ON, called for an immediate ceasefire in the sudden explosion of snowball fights in the city. Since the snowstorm 4 days earlier, the police had fielded many complaints of youths whipping snowballs at each other from opposite sides of the street. In some cases, errant missiles missed their intended targets and hit and dented cars.</p>
<p><b>1923:</b> At daybreak, 2 Montreal, QC, policemen spied a man trudging over the snowy pavement, barefoot and draped in a curtain. The temperature was -17.2°C. They took the almost nude man to the station where he explained he had lost his money and clothes playing strip poker. Police took pity on him, especially after he called his wife, now fuming, to bring some replacement clothes to the police station.</p>	<p><b>2005:</b> The weather in Edmonton, AB, was rainy, warm, and humid, with temperatures reaching 12°C, not the best conditions for the icemakers at the 2005 Curling Brier. To combat the humidity, they turned on the air conditioning. On one sheet, the frost was so thick that players couldn't see the painted rings beneath the surface. Further, it snowed, and then rained, adding even more moisture to the air.</p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>What does the expression "monkeys are getting married" mean?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>price of bananas dropped</li> <li>the wind is at your back</li> <li>rain and sun together</li> <li>hurricane merges with an extra-tropical storm</li> <li>the high pitch sound of lightning</li> </ol> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p>	<p><b>2005:</b> A 2-year-old black cat called Mr. Mudpie rallied from a severe bout of hypothermia. A few weeks earlier, the Guelph, ON, Humane Society 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.</p>	<p><b>1910:</b> A watchman at the railway snow shed near Field, BC, was standing near his cabin when an avalanche pinned him against the wall, burying him for 8 hours. A rescue party failed to find him and two hours later, figuring he was dead, sent for a coffin. Just then, the man's dog began scratching in the snow some distance away—the workmen dug there and discovered the victim unconscious, but still alive.</p>	<p><b>2005:</b> Residents of New Brunswick were cleaning up after yesterday's huge winter storm. Winds gusting to more than 140 km/h knocked down power lines, tore the roofs from buildings in Saint John, and blew trucks over. Fredericton got snow and heavy rain (25 mm); Edmundston was rocked by 60 cm of snow. One resident noticed his barn was missing; the next day it was found several metres down the street.</p>	<p><b>1852:</b> A rapid thaw and heavy rain forced the Grand River into flood at Paris, ON. The river rose 5 m and flooded the lower village, filling cellars from 2 to 3 m deep. An upstream bridge moved down the river with great force, striking 2 more bridges. The debris-filled water swept away trees, rails, and fences, forced a house off its foundation, and left the flats littered with ice sheets 1 m thick.</p>
<p><b>1851:</b> Ice on the St. Lawrence was about 5 cm thick and holding later in the season than normal. As several people skated on the ice-bridge, it suddenly moved a metre and began breaking up near the wharves. Panic-stricken, the skaters rushed to a nearby ladder. One man fell into the icy water and drowned. A canoeist nearby made no effort to save the man, so infuriating bystanders they pelted him with coal.</p>	<p><b>1936:</b> Spring floods across Quebec drowned 11 people in 2 days. Near La Martine, 5 children from 6 months to 8 years in age were swept away by a torrent of water. Their parents and 5 siblings survived. Earlier, 4 members of another family disappeared at St-Tite-des-Caps when floodwaters carried another house away. Water reached over highways and rail lines, and crippled communications.</p>	<p><b>2005:</b> As hundreds of athletes from around the world gathered in Dawson, YT, for sled dog and Nordic ski races, snow, freezing rain, and gusty winds played havoc with the competition. If it hadn't been for the volunteers who sat on the windows of the beer tent, it would have become airborne. The finish line banner was cut down when it looked like the supporting posts would lift out of the holes in the ice.</p> <p>Full Moon ☽</p>	<p><b>1920:</b> A mother and her 11-year-old son perished in a blizzard near Gladstone, MB. They came to town for the mail and groceries before heading home. A search party found their frozen bodies near their cutter 3 km from home. One horse perished in its harness; the other horse arrived at home during the night. Teachers at nearby schools wisely kept students overnight or until parents could rescue them.</p>	<p><b>2005:</b> A storm surge sent 10-m waves and tonnes of ice crashing along Newfoundland's east coast of the Avalon Peninsula, causing millions in damage. At Flatrock, strong winds felled 12-m cranes into the water. Thin ice was driven ashore with a tremendous force, ripping apart sheds and boats and wrecking fishing gear. Some tossed boulders were the size of a small car and were moved more than 50 m inland.</p>	<p><b>2003:</b> The ice thickness in the Upper Great Lakes approached 60 cm—greater than that of 1979, also a bad year. Officials deployed a powerful icebreaker in St. Mary's River and used an escort-convoy system for navigating early ships, the first time in 7 years. The ice cover finally thawed at the end of April. Further complicating matters, icebound channels blocked ice chunks from flowing downstream.</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p><b>1868:</b> A tornado in Toronto, ON, wrecked the Grand Trunk Railway locomotive shop—a large brick building about 50 m long and 15 m wide. Winds blew a man driving a lumber wagon into Lake Ontario. A railway car got loose and was pushed along at the rate of 30 km/h for a short distance. The roof of an ice house was lifted 20 m into the air and moved 200 m becoming a substitute for the roof of a car factory.</p>

**2005:** Snow-blower thefts were up in Toronto, ON, an indication of the long snowy winter. A noticeable spike in thefts occurred after a snowfall, because, as one officer remarked, it doesn't take much to figure out who has a snow blower, "thieves just have to look for the cleanest driveways." One man was charged with stealing 27 snow blowers. Police speculate that the machines are smuggled for sale in an underground market.

19

**2005:** A mudslide tore up sections of the Sea-to-Sky Highway north from Vancouver to Whistler, forcing resort-bound spring break travellers to turn around. Equipment used in the highway's \$600-million upgrade project for the 2010 Olympics was used to help clear mud and debris almost a metre deep from the road. The south coast was also hit by high winds, causing blackouts in some Vancouver neighbourhoods.

20

Spring Equinox  
13:26 EDT

**1924:** Forty-two of the 52 passengers on an icebound steamer braved a hazardous 10-km journey across the ice floes and landed at various points along the shores near Lingan, NS, on Cape Breton Island. They encountered little difficulty until they were within 50 m of shore. After searching in vain for an ice bridge, they were forced to jump from one ice floe to another to reach the beach.

21

**1849:** At Ferguson's Cove, NS, a large mass of ice and snow, loosened by thaw and rain, gave way and rushed downwards upon a house, burying it and wrenching it from its foundation. The heavy snow smothered an infant in a cradle and critically crushed an older child. Two other children who happened to be outside were forced by the driving mass of snow into the sea, but they made it back to shore.

22

Last Quarter 

**1907:** A rare spring thunder and lightning storm damaged some coastal communities in Newfoundland. At Harbour Grace, lightning destroyed an unoccupied house. Around Placentia, telegraph poles either split or broke in two. Lightning burst through the windows of one home and ignited curtains and some papers that were lying on a table. It also burned a wall switch and wallpaper, and sounded like a cannon.

23

World Meteorological Day

**1902:** Millions of logs extended 40 km above Fredericton, NB, behind a monster ice jam. Behind the mess of ice and logs, the pressure of water grew tremendously, threatening bridges downstream. Already the ice jam had flooded an immense tract of land, including several river islands, swept away a dozen or more barns, and destroyed huge quantities of hay. The flooding took out at least 30 highway bridges.

24

**2004:** It was about 8 degrees warmer than normal in Manitoba, as temperatures rose to 9.2°C and formed rapid snowmelt over still-frozen sewer drains. One journalist said that potholes were blistering forth like "a case of chicken pox in a day care." In northern Manitoba, officials began closing winter roads. This year some 2,000 shipments of fuel and general freight were trucked over the 2,200-km of winter roads.

25

**1830:** Halifax was hit by one of the most violent snow storms and destructive gales on record. Tidal water entirely covered all the wharves, wetting everything, including the lower floors of almost every house near the water. Rising waters swept away homes, wharves, and a distillery, and killed 2 fine horses. Damage was also done to the naval yard, particularly the wall in front of the Naval Hospital.

26

**2003:** A homeless man died from cardiac arrest after sleeping outside in only -7°C weather in Edmonton, AB. He was hypothermic when found, with a body temperature of just 22.5°C, well below the normal of 37°C. The irony is that he died on the steps to a drop-in shelter during Inner City Awareness Week.

27

**2005:** The BC Avalanche Centre warned back-country skiers, snowboarders, snowshoers, and snowmobilers to use particular caution after a new dump of snow. Up to 40 cm of fresh snow fell over much of the province's mountain ranges, from Whistler to the Kootenays. In the past, heavy snowfall in those areas and an increase in backcountry use in spring have proven a deadly combination.

28

**2005:** The annual seal hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence opened in treacherous conditions and renewed tensions between sealers and international protesters. High winds and rough seas hampered the opening day of the hunt, sending one 18-m fishing boat from Newfoundland to the bottom, and keeping observers grounded in Charlottetown. The second day brought gale-force winds of 90 km/h, freezing rain, and fog.

29

New Moon 

**2005:** A nasty weather bomb struck Newfoundland overnight, bringing unpleasant weather. In the south there was wind and rain; farther north it snowed. Around St. Anthony, blowing and drifting snow reduced visibility to zero at times. St. Lawrence received 100 to 150 mm in a 36-hour period, the most in a decade. Many homes had flooded basements. One unofficial report had 234 mm falling in one community over 1.5 days.

30

**2005:** Around Vancouver, BC, production of a movie starring Harrison Ford was held up because it wasn't stormy enough, putting production about 10 days behind schedule. The Vancouver scenes called for bad weather, so producers had to bring in rainmaking machines to put around the house. Further, they had to relocate to different rooms in the house to avoid the sunshine coming through the windows.

31

**MARCH**

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5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
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26 27 28 29 30 31

Lighthouse showing the way in fog, Cape Spear, NL / Daryl Benson / Masterfile

# APRIL 2006

**MAY**

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**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

						<p><b>2003:</b> The city of Edmonton, AB, began loaning traps to residents to catch prowling neighbourhood cats. Intended as a year-round program, its initiation was delayed until 1 April due to extreme cold that first winter. The terms of the signed agreement were also revised to read that users must check traps every 2 hours, and every hour when the temperature is below -10°C or above 25°C. <b>1</b></p>
<p><b>2004:</b> Students in eastern Nova Scotia lost from 9 to 18.5 days this school year due to inclement weather. One director of education suggested adding a half hour to teaching days to make up the equivalent of 4 lost-time days. However, his board said no and instead asked staff to find other ways to recover lost teaching time. <b>2</b></p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	<p><b>2003:</b> An Environment Canada scientist reported that air streams are dropping Asian toxins into BC's high alpine lakes and icefields. Arriving in cold climates, the poisons fall to earth, often attached to snowflakes. The largest concentrations occur in lakes fed by glaciers, which themselves have absorbed pollutants for up to 100 years. Most of these toxins were banned in North America in the 1970s. <b>3</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Two young people from Winnipeg, MB, gripped with spring fever in 7°C temperatures, spent the afternoon wakeboarding in a water-filled ditch north of the city. The pair, a boy and a girl, tied their board to a truck travelling at 40 km/h and "surfed" in the ditch. The boy bragged he had never fallen. <b>4</b></p>	<p><b>1929:</b> Copious rains fell across southern Ontario, flooding cellars, blocking highways, undermining railway beds, and creating extensive property damage. The deluge also disrupted telephone, telegraph, and electric light services in many cities and led to the loss of 8 lives. In many places, vehicles splashed their way through pools of water 0.5 m deep. <b>5</b></p> <p>First Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>1900:</b> Ice jammed at a bridge near Janeville, ON. In less than an hour, parts of the town were submerged under a metre of water. As the waters rose, a horse pulling a wagon became frightened and stopped. The enraged driver whipped the horse, but the poor animal fell and drowned, upsetting the buggy and flinging the driver into the fast-moving current. The driver was later rescued. <b>6</b></p>	<p><b>1977:</b> The first-ever Blue Jays ball game in Toronto, ON, was played in snow. Head umpire Joe Brinkman said he had never seen snow at a ballpark before. Umpire Rich Garcia from Florida said he had never seen snow, period! At one point, the umpire intercepted a trainer with a hot wafer bottle for the pitcher and said "Get your butt back in there, he's the only one ... that's warm. The rest of us are freezing." <b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1922:</b> Near Lethbridge, AB, a shepherd saved his employer's flock in a blinding blizzard. For 20 hours, he managed to keep the herd of 2,500 sheep intact, constantly digging the weaker animals from snowdrifts. Without warm clothing himself and weak from hunger, he was near collapsing from exhaustion and exposure when he was found and rescued. Fewer than a dozen sheep perished. <b>8</b></p>
<p><b>2003:</b> At Smith Sound, NL, more than 200,000 kg of fish froze to death in one of the largest mass cod kills in recent memory. Scientists found that the temperature in the entire water column in a section of the bay was well below normal, causing the fish to freeze and then die. The sea water was 1.7°C, almost as cold as it can possibly get. <b>9</b></p> <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b> <b>10</b></p> <p>Since 1900, the United States has had nearly 100 F5 tornadoes. Over the same period, how many catastrophic tornadoes has Canada experienced?</p> <p>1) none 2) one 3) five 4) seven 5) ten</p> <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p>	<p><b>1932:</b> In an early spring thaw, several ice jams caused minor flooding throughout the Saint John River Basin in New Brunswick. In Fredericton, the situation was aggravated by an ice jam near the Dominion Agricultural Experimental Station, which forced ice floes onto both shores. At a local beach, the dressing rooms and shade trees sustained extensive ice damage. <b>11</b></p>	<p><b>1999:</b> Alberta fish and wildlife officials were getting daily calls from farmers about weak and dying moose and about moose stealing from their hay reserves. Officials blamed the previous dry summer and fall for an abundance of ticks which made the moose spend so much energy getting rid of ticks that they didn't eat enough to survive the winter. Some moose were infected with over 100,000 tick bites. <b>12</b></p>	<p><b>1953:</b> More than 20 cm of snow fell on Winnipeg, MB, with half the snow falling in the 2 hours before midnight. Two men threw snowballs at pedestrians waiting for a streetcar. They were having so much fun, they didn't stop, and were fined \$5 and costs for being disorderly. The heavy, wet snow was a boon to farmers in the southern prairies where the land had almost dried out. <b>13</b></p> <p>Passover Begins Full Moon ☽</p>	<p><b>1979:</b> A French fishing vessel bound for Miquelon struck an iceberg on the Grand Banks. Only 7 survived. On the fifth day of their ordeal, crazed by their experiences and in desperation, the survivors were driven to cannibalism and ate the dead. Cold, hungry, suffering from thirst, and worn from rowing, the sailors were so badly frostbitten that their arms had to be amputated. <b>14</b></p> <p>Good Friday</p>	<p><b>1930:</b> A 13-year-old boy near Hafford, SK, crawled 3 km in a blizzard with a broken leg, after being thrown and kicked by a horse. He made his way around 1-m snowdrifts on his hands and one knee, dragging his broken leg behind him. Suffering frightfully, the boy finally reached a farmhouse. The family summoned a doctor whose car had to be extracted from snowdrifts by horses on 3 occasions. <b>15</b></p>

**1922:** The Chief Inspector from Edmonton, AB, and an agent from the Revenue Department paid a surprise visit to a home on the edge of the city. They found their way through a blinding snowstorm by following brewery-like fumes wafting in the wind. The odour, detectable from 3 blocks away, was a mash in the process of fermentation, which the house occupant had to explain to a skeptical court.

16

Easter Sunday

**1835:** During an intense snowstorm on Prince Edward Island, an elderly couple from Portage left their son-in-law's to return home, about 300 m away. Halfway there, the couple was completely bewildered by the violent storm and stopped to argue about the route to lake. The wife sat down, covered with a rug, and was found uninjured the next morning. Her husband was found dead about 0.5 km away.

17

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

18

**1927:** Mild weather across southern Alberta, with temperatures exceeding 25°C, prompted ranchers to let their stock out to graze on the prairie. During a blizzard near Coronation, AB, a herd of cattle wandered onto the weakening ice of a frozen pond. It took 24 hours to free the animals, and 20 head were lost.

19

**1897:** A gang of wood labourers were asleep in a tent 12 km from Rossland, BC, when they were overwhelmed by an avalanche. One survivor had been awakened by what he thought was a derailed train car. He went to investigate and almost immediately a mass of snow, rocks, dirt and trees came down, completely covering his tent. Miraculously, his tent mates survived, although 7 men in the camp died.

20

Last Quarter 

**1855:** A vicious wind storm struck the harbour in Collingwood, ON. Found among the strewn debris were broken planks, roof parts, bedding, and stove pipes. Three boats were tossed inland and smashed to pieces. Ice more than 0.5 m thick crashed into the pier. The harbour water rose and fell 1.5 m in less than 5 minutes. Suddenly the harbour was ice-free and navigation could commence in a week.

21

**1953:** In Winnipeg, MB, wind gusts whipping up to 80 km/h filled the air with a grey haze, reminding old-timers of "the dirty thirties." The grit, which made eyes smart and dirtied clothes, was mostly crushed limestone used on the city's slippery streets during winter. Since Easter, more than 300 men had worked around the clock to clean up 6,000 cubic metres of dirt on city streets.

22

Earth Day

**2004:** Winds close to 100 km/h toppled a Leduc, AB, landmark—a 99-year-old spruce tree that had been transplanted to make way for a strip mall. A crew replanted the tree but, its chances of survival were reduced by its being uprooted a second time.

23

**30** **2003:** Edmontonians were enjoying golf while Calgarians were buried in snow. A drive from Kelowna to Calgary, normally a 6-hour trip, took 17 hours because of winterlike conditions.

**1893:** Shortly after leaving Lunenburg, NS, a steamer encountered a heavy gale and thick fog. The ship struck Big Duck Island at full speed and started breaking up. The accident had washed away all lifeboats. Fortunately, there was a large dory in the freight on the upper deck. Ship-wrecked passengers and crew climbed aboard and rowed for Lunenburg, where they landed 6 hours later.

24

**2004:** Following a blizzard in Newfoundland and Labrador, officials closed the Trans-Canada Highway west of St. John's when dozens of motorists became stranded. It was hard to know where the road was because of drifting, blowing snow. Public sector workers were on strike, necessitating management staff to operate equipment. The province advised people to stay home.

25

**1854:** During a thunderstorm, lightning struck the chimney of the Catholic church in Newmarket, ON, scattering brick and mortar in every direction. Nearby, another lightning bolt hit a highly respected, elderly farmer as he walked from house to barn. In the newspaper it said: "when found he was quite dead. His hair was all burned off his head, and his cap was still on fire."

26

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

27

New Moon 

**2003:** It is rare to see endangered whooping cranes as far west as Edmonton, AB. They normally migrate across Saskatchewan, landing in eastern Alberta's Wood Buffalo National Park. This year observers said high winds in snow and freezing rain drove a flock of 40 cranes off course. A Canadian Wildlife Service biologist doubted they were whooping cranes, saying they were most likely snow geese or swans.

28

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

29



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# MAY 2006

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25	26	27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><b>2003:</b> The first cruise ship of the season came into the harbour at Saint John's, NL, but passengers were wearing mittens, toques, and scarves. It was 15°C and sunny, but the American tourists couldn't believe how cold it was.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>1923:</b> The lifeguard opened the outdoor pool in Edmonton, AB, despite the fact that it was snowing. Among the 102 early arrivals, no one was anxious to jump in. Instead they admired the water's clear tint. Then one boy took the plunge, followed by other youngsters. Adults took a lot longer. The water temperature (21°C) was much warmer than the surrounding air temperature (10°C).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>1955:</b> In Saskatchewan, rain soaked fields and forced streams to overflow their banks. In Regina, the floods were the worst in the city's history. Police rescued several motorists from car rooftops. At Regina Beach, rising waters capsized pleasure boats, dashing them to pieces. The mayor of Moose Jaw broadcast evacuation orders. When one family refused to move, the mayor threatened martial law.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>2003:</b> At the Forks in Winnipeg, MB, it rained during the 10th Anniversary of the Great Manitoba Dog Party. Dog owners had to wring out their pets. The cold drizzle wetted both man and beast; however, the downpour didn't put a damper on the dogs' party. The previous year it had snowed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>1837:</b> A violent hail and rain storm struck St. Catharines, ON, causing damage to windows on the west side of most buildings. In Thorold, the damage signature suggested a furious tornado had hit, accounting for the unrooting of buildings, the smashing of windows, and the killing and maiming of domestic animals. Hailstones resembling flattened bullets in size and appearance littered the ground.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>1923:</b> After scrambling for 20 km over one of the roughest ice packs ever in Sydney, NS, harbour, 12 passengers and 11 crew from a steamer finally reached shore, making the last few hundred metres of the journey in dories that had come out to meet them. The steamer had been stuck in heavy flocs for a month. Shortly after the party left the ship on foot, the icepack started drifting away from shore.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p>
					First Quarter ☾	
<p><b>1950:</b> A northeast gale blowing at 120 km/h snapped a pole carrying high tension wires to a lumber mill in Rimouski, QC, sparking a huge fire in a dry lumber pile. Sparks ignited a residential area, destroying several homes. Early the next day, the wind shifted and drove the fire deep into the heart of the city's business district, burning 2 convents, a seminary, a theatre, and scores of stores.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1901:</b> Lightning struck a school chimney about 8 km from Stanstead Junction, QC. The bolt injured about a dozen pupils, including 2 students who had their hair burned and their shoes torn off. They were left unconscious and paralyzed in their lower limbs, but afterwards regained consciousness.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>1908:</b> While a thunderstorm passed over Edmonton, AB, a lightning bolt struck a young boy, leaving him unconscious and partially paralyzed. The charge damaged the kitchen, ripping up the floor in 5 places. His father ran next door for assistance, but found a lone occupant lying unconscious on the dining room floor from the effects of the same lightning stroke. Both victims recovered from the shock.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> For drivers in Amherstburg, ON, it was a scene right out of a horror movie. About 20 dead and 12 injured seagulls littered the ground near River Canard. Amherstburg police figured the birds died during an overnight storm, possibly as the result of a lightning strike. One motorist said when she saw the birds it was a frightful and horrible scene.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> A wicked Colorado storm dumped mounds of wet snow from Calgary, AB, to Kenora, ON. Farmers welcomed the moisture, but for weary city folk, it was like winter all over again. Snowplows were brought out of storage to clear blocked city streets. The long line-ups of deserted cars and trucks on the Trans-Canada Highway for about 2 days cost the Canadian transportation sector millions of dollars.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>1956:</b> A vicious tornado, one of 18 that ripped through Michigan and Ontario the previous 3 days, struck McGregor, ON, seriously injuring 3 people. In one incident, a tornado lifted a new truck and carried it 100 m before setting it down. It also picked up 10 yellow chicks and set them down in a big field. It took 2 young brothers almost a day to retrieve the tiny birds, all of them found safe and sound.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>1986:</b> A massive spring snowstorm hammered southern Alberta. TransAlta Utilities saw 108 steel transmission towers buckle and 3,000 wooden power poles snap under the weight of a 31-cm snowfall. Nearly 6,300 residents lost power for a week, sparking a spike in generator sales. City crews were forced to dump tonnes of gravel onto the streets just days after they had swept the roads of winter's sand and salt.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p>
						Full Moon ☽
<p><b>1921:</b> An immense solar storm featuring a sunspot 34,000 km wide triggered an unusually spectacular aurora borealis across the north. Officials said the sunspot was visible to the naked eye. The great solar storm interrupted telegraph and telephone service in Canada and the United States. Transmissions between the British Isles and northern Europe were also badly delayed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>1936:</b> When the ice dam on the Yukon River broke, a wall of water inundated buildings and felled several telegraph lines. At Coffee Creek, only rooftops were visible in what was said to be the worst flood ever. On hearing the ice move, a man rescued his wife who was confined to bed. He tied his boat close to his house, climbed on the roof, dropped a rope with a noose through the skylight, and hoisted his wife to safety.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>1934:</b> Recent dust storms blocked the roads in many places west of Brandon, MB. Special gangs of men were sent out to shovel the fine sand and gravel off the road. Cleaning the roads was very slow going because soil drifts were extremely hard-packed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Wildfire managers in BC feared a repeat of the previous year's fire season—the most expensive forest inferno on record. Also affecting the forestry sector, the excessive heat and prolonged dryness forced ranchers to truck water because creeks and reservoirs had gone dry. A massive kill-off of sockeye salmon was blamed in part on the 60-year-high temperatures of the Fraser River (22°C in 2004).</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>1931:</b> Weather conditions across the prairies were ugly and varied, ranging from icy temperatures and snow flurries in Alberta and Saskatchewan to wild dust storms in Manitoba. So heavy was the dust-laden air in Manitoba that the plane carrying mail from Brandon to Winnipeg was unable to take flight and remained stormbound.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>1860:</b> A tornado raced through Newmarket and Aurora, ON. Although there was no loss of life, the storm demolished scores of homes, blew fences hither and thither, and levelled acres of woodlots and orchards. The twister raised the water level in Lake Wilcox, and tossed cattle and sheep into the air. Four children playing in an open field were nearly carried away—2 were held down by their older brother.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>1920:</b> A Hudson's Bay Company factor living north of Churchill, MB, fell critically ill and had to be taken to hospital in Winnipeg via Churchill. It was impossible to use dog teams, so an open freight canoe was tilted with a sail and loaded with scant provisions. It encountered heavy seas that surged for most of the trip. On their arrival at Churchill, all 4 boat occupants required medical treatment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p>
Mother's Day		Canadian Census Day				Last Quarter ☾

**1979:** A tornado tore part of the roof off the annex of a wheat pool elevator in Regina, SK. It also destroyed a farmhouse and barn, and sent a truck flying across a yard. The farmer, who was working in a nearby field, escaped injury. The twisting winds drove about a dozen splinters of wood more than a metre into a house, overturned a stove and chairs, and created a 1-by-2-metre hole in the kitchen wall.

21

**2004:** In a rare event, 2 tornadoes struck southwestern Ontario within minutes, just a few kilometres apart. The tornado that touched down near Stratford likely packed winds of 350 km/h, the fiercest to hit Ontario in 8 years. It was a miracle that no one was hurt. The storm uprooted giant trees and picked up a truck from a driveway, spun it around, and dropped it about 10 m away on a lawn.

22

Victoria Day

**1920:** The little village of St. Quentin, NB, was almost entirely wiped out as the result of forest fires spread by strong winds from a lumberyard fire. Some 1,000 people were left homeless. About 320 square km of standing timber were destroyed. Further, the fire burned thousands of railroad ties along nearby sidings, and the intense heat buckled steel rails.

28

**2004:** Across the Maritimes, May's winterlike weather meant a busy time for companies delivering furnace oil. Consequently, customers had to wait 2 or 3 days for delivery. The unseasonably cool wet weather emptied golf courses on PEI. It was said that even the Scots among Islanders stayed home and practised their putting in the living room.

29

**Weather Quiz**

23

How many experienced storm chasers have been killed chasing tornadoes?

- 1) none
- 2) one
- 3) five
- 4) ten
- 5) 25

*(Answer on inside back cover)*

**1831:** Lightning struck the chimney of Henry Lord's house in Saint John, NB—splitting it from top to bottom—tore off the mantle piece, and completely melted the brass shovel and tongs that stood near the fireplace. A man in an adjoining room was temporarily deprived of speech, but he soon recovered. Out in the barn, the cow Mrs. Lord was milking was knocked down by lightning, but was not injured.

30

**2003:** Riding the jet stream, smoke from Russian and Mongolian wildfires made its way across Alaska and was clearly evident in northern Alberta and Saskatchewan skies. Eventually, it moved southward across the Great Lakes and into northeastern USA. The smoky haze gave a pink colour to the sun, especially at sunset. Visibility was affected at mid to high levels, but not at ground level.

24

**2004:** The best thing about Manitoba's May weather was that it finally ended when the month ended. Miserable rain forced the cancellation of outdoor activities including the Teddy Bears' Picnic, racing at Assiniboia Downs, and Blue Bombers' football practices. Patio businesses endured heavy losses—at this time last year there had been at least 30 good patio days, compared to 2 this year.

31

**1944:** Tons of ice 3 m deep clogged the main street of Dawson, YT, when the gravel dam at the power plant gave way during spring flooding. The terrific force of the ice crushed a dock and freight sheds. Officials ordered in 4 motorized bombers from Fairbanks to break the 25-km long ice jam down the Lower Yukon River, thus ending the greatest crisis in the history of the town.

25

**2001:** As forest fires in northern Quebec drew dangerously close to communities and smoke made breathing difficult for residents, officials decided to evacuate people from Nemaska. The region had not seen any rain in recent weeks. Even nearby swamps were dry and couldn't act as a fire barrier. In 1 day, the fire raced 6 km in just 4 hours, quadrupling the area under fire.

26

**1997:** A normally harmless dust devil made mischief in Winnipegosis, MB, scaring residents and whipping around patio furniture. The wind moved down the main street, scattering small articles and loose garbage. The swirl was 13 m wide and strong enough to move large tires and toss about a wooden picnic table about 15 m from where it had sat. Despite the ferocious winds, no one was hurt.

27

New Moon ●

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30 31

# JUNE 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1925: An intense lightning storm in central Ontario was at its worst along the Spanish River. While driving their animals to shelter, 2 men from Sudbury were struck by a bolt of lightning. It killed one man instantly. The other was blinded and doctors doubted he would recover his sight. Close by, another man escaped uninjured, but the single bolt killed 4 horses and several cattle. <b>1</b></p>	<p>1916: Near Mitchell, ON, a tornado destroyed 16 farm buildings, including a stone house with walls 0.5 m thick. A man tried to outrun the twister but was killed instantly by a flying board. Chickens, de-feathered except for wings and tails, were scared. Winds carried a henhouse 0.5 km down the road. Incredibly no stock was killed. Nearly 2,000 people visited the scene in awe of the wreckage. <b>2</b></p>	<p>1952: In Alberta, the highway law places the onus on operators for keeping their vehicle plates clean. Ordinarily, this is not a problem, but this year when it rained, mud was readily sticking to the license plate lettering. Painted with a light-reflecting paint, the letters were especially difficult to scrub clean. <b>3</b></p>
						First Quarter ☉
<p>1953: Weeks of drenching rains washed out bridges and flooded highways, threatening to keep Manitobans away from a provincial vote. Returning officers to the east and north of Riding Mountain National Park complained about difficulties in getting ballot boxes and themselves through the mud to the polls. People guessed that the vote wouldn't be counted until after flood waters receded. <b>4</b></p>	<p>1933: Following a day of blistering heat, a sudden storm hit Winnipeg, MB. Heavy rain and large hailstones broke windows, defoliated trees, and bruised plants. Hail the size of beans struck many stucco homes, bringing down a rain of pebbles from the walls. At one greenhouse, hail smashed more than 85 square metres of glass, but the stones were not sufficiently large to hurt the plants below. <b>5</b></p> <p>World Environment Day</p>	<p>2004: Heavy rain soaked Calgary, AB, but the Gay Pride parade went ahead as participants dodged puddles to soak up the fun. At Fort Calgary, families flocked to the Teddy Bears' Picnic. However, across the city most weekend events were rained out. Sewers were still plugged with winter debris, so standing water levels rose in the downtown. Many residences had flooded basements. <b>6</b></p>	<p>1933: An intense storm in southern Ontario inflicted much property damage. In Winona, children frightened by the sight and sound of the school roof ripping off slumped, shaking, in their seats. Pandemonium reigned, but a clergyman restored order by leading a round of hymns during the height of the storm. Frantically, rescuers fought to uncover children in the wreckage of bricks and timbers. <b>7</b></p>	<p>1954: This notice appeared in the daily newspaper in Sault Ste. Marie, ON: "Strange objects will be floating about Sault skies for six weeks. The objects will be plastic (weather) balloons, 40 to 60 feet in size, to be used in biological research. The balloons may be mistaken for 'flying saucers.' ...The balloons will test the effect of higher altitude on living tissue." <b>8</b></p>	<p>1834: The weather was unseasonably cold across eastern Canada. The ice on many ponds was "thick as a penny-piece." The frost was strong, and streets were white with snow. Swallows and other small birds perished in great numbers. In a New Brunswick paper, it said: "one might imagine, that we had all, like so many Rip Van Winkles, slept the whole summer, and awaked in the month of November." <b>9</b></p>	<p>2004: Dozens of squashed turtles littered the Queen Elizabeth Highway near Hamilton, ON. Recent warm weather drew the turtles from wetlands to lay their eggs in sandy highway shoulders, close to the warm pavement, but they ended up victims of the traffic whizzing by. Adult deaths have a big impact on turtle population because, although they live long, turtles lay only small clutches of eggs. <b>10</b></p>
<p>1931: Before unhitching his horses, a farmer near Kipling, SK, was standing behind his binder. In the distance, his wife of 2 months stood watching him. Suddenly, she saw a bolt of lightning strike nearby. When the flash disappeared, she rushed over. The team was still standing, but her husband was dead. Lightning had struck his head, and the current had grounded him through his spinal column. <b>11</b></p> <p>Full Moon ☉</p>	<p>1963: The local newspaper headline said: "Anyone for horseshoes?" A tornado near Maryfield, MB, lifted a heavy steel wheel more than 100 m over a fence. It demolished an implement shed, and the combine and swather stored inside. The roof landed in the bluffs more than 0.5 km away. Pieces of lumber were driven so deeply into the ground that only a machine could remove them. <b>12</b></p>	<p>2004: A tornado passed 30 km northeast of Vulcan, AB, kicking up plumes of dust, ripping apart shed roofs, and tossing fuel tanks more than 300 m. The strong wind snapped trees and yanked fence posts right out of the ground. Although the day's maximum temperature hovered around 17°C, tornadoes are usually associated with much hotter summer weather, making this one a bit of an oddity. <b>13</b></p>	<p>1892: Thunder, lightning, rain, and squalls broke forth in one grand outburst of fury over the Bay of Fundy, and continued at intervals during the night. In Saint John, NB, the conglomerate hail stones were huge, carried down King Street by the flood as though they were pebbles. One weighed in at 17 kg. At Truro, NS, winds blew a box car into the CPR night express, causing an ugly collision. <b>14</b></p>	<p>1863: A lightning bolt entered through the window of a home in Morell, PE, and kindled a fire in the roof. It glanced the body of a young man sitting at the breakfast table and split his boots in several places, leaving him temporarily numb and paralyzed. Then passing up between the man and the table, it snatched his porridge spoon out of his hand, and drove it against the ceiling. <b>15</b></p>	<p>2004: Yesterday, in Brandon, MB, a weak tornado uprooted trees, knocked out windows, and flattened farm buildings. Many described a deafening roar as the funnel cloud raged. Trailer park residents stared agog at a metal post lodged in a back lawn, though nearby tomato plants had been left untouched. Another resident found her potatoes lying on top of the soil, mysteriously sucked out of the earth. <b>16</b></p>	<p>2004: Woodlot owners in Nova Scotia worried about fires spreading rapidly through massive amounts of dry timber blown down by Hurricane Juan last fall. Some were not allowed to clean up the wood because of a quarantine by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to stop the brown spruce longhorn beetle from spreading. Thus, wood littered the ground as the fire weather index soared. <b>17</b></p>

1951: A freak tornado twisted out of an almost cloudless sky and tore a gaping hole in the roof of a skating rink at Pense, SK. The twister struck the centre of the building, wrenching heavy timbers. Only a few drops of rain fell from the fast-moving storm.

18

Father's Day Last Quarter ☾

1848: A large, intense tornado hit Ingersoll, ON, levelling farm buildings and killing 1 person. A local newspaper described it in vivid 19th century prose: "The current of air rushing into the vacuum caused by this whirlwind presented a most awful grand spectacle of turmoil and confusion. Objects of every shape were torn up from the earth and whirled into the air, and danced with frantic glee."

19

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

20

2004: Yukoners were roasting in an unprecedented heat wave. The temperature at Whitehorse reached 33.2°C—its third warmest temperature in 62 years. Swift River on the Alaska Highway became the hottest spot ever recorded in Yukon with an unofficial temperature of 37°C. Some Yukoners tried to cool down by jumping off bridges. Stores exhausted their supply of electric fans and ice.

21

Summer Solstice  
8:26 EDT

1923: Lightning struck under a bed in Glace Bay, NS, setting the house on fire. The family barely escaped in time—younger children were snatched from their beds as their rooms caught fire. Only a suitcase was saved. The fire had a 30-minute head start before someone sounded the alarm. As it happened, lightning had knocked out telephone service on that street and all callers got was "no answer."

22

Weather Quiz 23

How many Blue Jays' games have been weather-delayed under Toronto's retractable roof?

- 1) none
- 2) one
- 3) three
- 4) five
- 5) seven

(Answer on inside back cover)

1972: A tornado associated with the remains of Hurricane Agnes touched down in Maniwaki, QC. The twister destroyed 6 houses and damaged 15 others. It then piled up 50 cars at a new car dealership. The tornado killed a mother and son in their mobile home, tossing the trailer nearly 100 m. Apparently, this is the farthest north that a hurricane-spawned killer tornado has ever occurred.

24

St-Jean-Baptiste Day

1958: Three black funnel clouds passed through the town of La Salle, ON, yesterday, bypassing a Roman Catholic school where 95 pupils knelt in prayer. Most children ran to the window to watch the tornado. About to hit, the tornado suddenly skipped aside and headed to the other end of town. An hour later, a second twister roared through Leamington, shattering a section of Canada's largest greenhouse.

25

New Moon ●

1953: Washouts and flash floods caused by continuously heavy rains disrupted train and bus scheduling throughout Saskatchewan. Hardest hit was Yorkton, which received 100 mm of rain. The rains washed out a 20-m section of the CPR track east of Insinger. It also moved a railway bunkhouse 20 cm off its foundation. Further, winds ripped roots off several small buildings and demolished an oil shed.

26

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

27

1915: Heavy rains in Edmonton, AB, caused the North Saskatchewan River to overflow its banks. The river rose 11 m above the low-level mark and drove nearly 2,500 residents from their homes, destroying 60 houses and a lumber company. Chicken coops, barns, and shacks were swept away. Authorities saved the half-built 105th Street bridge by parking 14 railroad coal cars over the superstructure.

28

1856: Lightning struck the open door of a home in West Woolwich, ON, near Kitchener, injuring 2 occupants and knocking 8 others to the floor, leaving them stunned. One man's pantaloons were burnt and torn off, and the lower portion of his body was literally crisped and denuded of skin. One toe was split as with a knife. His elderly father burned both arms—his skin hung in shreds.

29

1912: The Regina, SK, cyclone, Canada's worst tornado, also swept across rural districts. Killing 28 people, it picked up buildings like paper boxes and smashed them into kindling wood—traces of them were found kilometres away. Even cement foundations were ground into powder. It was reported that the tornado grabbed a woman, stripped off her clothes, even removing her shoes, and carried her 150 m.

30

JUNE

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"Fog or shine"—making the most of short Canadian summers on Georgian Bay, ON / Ron Watts / firstlight

AUGUST

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27 28 29 30 31

# JULY 2006

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						<p>1881: At least 1 home was destroyed when a tornado moved through a Mennonite settlement near Niverville, MB, scooping up everything in its path. The tornado unroofed a house and its outbuildings, and lifted a reaper from the field, destroying its gearings. Eyewitnesses saw the tornado lift a boy into the air where he was hit by lightning while aloft. He died several days later.</p> <p>Canada Day</p>
<p>2004: On a sunny day in Port Colborne, ON, a T-shirt vendor's stall was hit by an isolated microburst, sending the tent and table of T-shirts into the air. Both the tent and table crashed to the ground, but the T-shirts spiraled 150 m into the sky before being swept away towards the lake. The next booth over had a table lined with trading cards but "not one of them was moved."</p>	<p>1934: Knocked unconscious when struck by lightning, a man in McLean, SK, recovered to find his wife lying a short distance away, killed by the same flash. The hoe she had been using had been splintered by the flash, the rims on her spectacles had melted, and her shoes had been ripped from her feet. The couple had been hoeing potatoes during a dry-lightning storm.</p> <p>Aphelion 19:00 EDT</p> <p>First Quarter ☉</p>	<p>1805: A thunder-and-hail storm struck Quebec City, QC, and environs. The hailstones shattered or cracked hundreds of windows, especially in public buildings and churches, and tore leaves from large plants and the tops of tender flowers. The <i>Quebec Mercury</i> reported hailstones the size of pistol balls, accompanied by solid pieces of ice measuring up to 3 cm long, 2 cm wide, and 0.5 cm thick.</p>	<p>1921: Quebec City, QC, was unbearably hot and humid. Adding to the misery was smoke-filled air from forest fires raging in northern Ontario. At least 300 men of the St. Maurice River Pulp Company were fighting the fires. The ground was so dry that the fire travelled beneath the soil, eating up everything in its track. Clergy asked parishioners to pray for rain the following Sunday.</p>	<p>1943: The tug <i>Erg</i> collided with a Norwegian freighter in fog in the Bedford Basin, just outside Halifax, NS, and sank quickly in about 75 m of water, drowning 19. Most of those on board were trapped in the tug's wheelhouse and engine room, where they had taken shelter from the fog and rain. One thankful wife had convinced her husband to stay home because of inclement weather.</p>	<p>1938: Widespread rains temporarily helped to check the deadly encephalomyelitis epidemic sweeping through rural Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The virus had killed hundreds of horses. Rains settled the dust, one of the main carriers of the encephalomyelitis virus, according to animal pathologists.</p>	<p>2004: A narrow, strong F1 (almost F2) tornado with winds of 180 km/h skipped through Grande Prairie, AB, tearing down a store wall, flipping cars, cutting power, bending traffic lights, raising a pickup truck several metres into the air before dropping it onto the sidewalk, tearing roofing and siding from buildings, and downing more than a dozen large trees. City officials declared a state of emergency.</p>
<p>1831: Lightning descended a house chimney in Cumberland Arms, NB, and then exited, cleanly separating window glass from its sashes. The explosion shattered dishes and broke a decanter containing spirits. The editor of the <i>Miramichi Gleaner</i> wrote: "The circumstance of the lightning having smashed the rum bottle, without damaging any thing else in the room, was an argument in favor of Temperance Societies."</p>	<p>1953: A 3-hour thunderstorm struck Yorkton, SK, dumping nearly 100 mm of rain over the city. At the height of the storm, the water reached the tops of fire hydrants. Store merchandise floated in flooded basements. Lightning struck and split the flagpole on the city hall. A doctor making a house call had to take off his shoes and socks, and roll up his pants to treat a patient.</p> <p>Full Moon ☾</p>	<p>2004: The biggest ever deluge in Edmonton, AB, produced golf-ball-size hail in piles 6 cm deep that had to be removed by snowplows. The record flash flood, estimated to be a 1-in-200-year event, washed out roads, filled underpasses, and flooded basements. Enormous water pressure blew hundreds of manhole covers sky high. Insurers paid out close to \$160 million in more than 12,000 claims.</p>	<p>2004: The 103 young campers at Turtle Mountain Bible Camp, MB, sang and prayed while a storm raged outside, toppling utility poles and slamming trees into buildings. It left the climbing wall in a thousand pieces and wrapped a canoe around the waterslide. The same storm ripped a nearby hay shed from its foundation, tossing the contained heavy equipment and pontoon boat nearly 0.5 km.</p>	<p>2004: An editor of <i>The Daily News</i> in Kamloops, BC, reported that his stove had exploded in a blinding white flash. Lightning had indeed struck an aluminum stack on the top of his house and travelled through it before discharging out the stove. Wrote the editor: "...had it happened a few seconds later, I would have been electrocuted while cooking up a batch of Kraft Dinner. What a way to go!"</p>	<p>2004: Torrential rainfall, ranging from 100 to 240 mm, swamped Peterborough, ON, and dropped a phenomenal 14 billion litres of water on the downtown area, enough water to flow over Niagara Falls in about 40 minutes or to fill almost 9 SkyDomes. It was one of the wettest Canadian days ever east of the Rocky Mountains—a 1-in-200-year event, with the early estimate of insured losses exceeding \$88 million.</p>	<p>1852: A thunderstorm producing torrents of rain created a huge flood at Cap Blanc, QC, triggering a massive mudslide that buried a 2-storey brick house in black slate and earth, killing 4 family members. The same storm destroyed 2 houses at Cape Cove, covering them with red earth and huge pieces of limestone.</p>

**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 site of the accident was difficult to reach. The freighter, only slightly damaged, picked up 2 lifeboats and then cruised around under the pall of fog, aggravated by smoke from nearby forest fires. There was no trace of 4 missing crew members who were soon given up for lost.

16

**1925:** A howling windstorm scared spectators at the fairgrounds in Edmonton, AB. When skies darkened and danger threatened, some of the concessions and large tents on the midway were closed. The teepees of local First Nations people easily rode out the gale. Despite the foul weather, all of the acts in the grandstand program went ahead, except for the Japanese jugglers and the still walkers.

17

**2004:** More than 20 people were injured, 1 critically, after a huge tent erected for a folk music festival blew away in a ferocious 10-second wind gust in Plessisville, QC. First there was an eerie calm and then the wind ripped everything away. The tent was lifted as high as the street lights and torn into pieces. Some of the injured suffered open wounds and broken bones from flying debris.

18

**1955:** The temperature in Winnipeg, MB, hit 33.3°C in the middle of a 6-day heat wave. Everything slowed down, except for the clock at city hall running one hour fast. The engineering department discovered that heat in the clock tower had melted the grease and the hour hand had slipped a cog. Main Street pedestrians found themselves checking their own watches, thinking they were an hour late for work.

19

**1921:** Just as the horses went to the post in the fourth race at the Maisonneuve track in Montreal, QC, a thunderstorm broke, and a heavy squall lifted the roof from the south stands. The roof stayed airborne for a few seconds, then toppled back onto cars parked in a field behind the stands. As the roof came tumbling down, men and women jostled in a wild rush to get out of the way.

20

**1909:** A vicious storm with 3 hours of nonstop lightning struck Lloydminster, AB. Wind twisted heavy wagons and farm machinery into interesting shapes, and carried one cultivator 200 m into a field. It also lifted pigs out of corrals, turned houses upside down, and caused a barn and house to collide in midair. A man who had just finished building a new house lost all trace of it after the storm.

21

**2004:** Victoria, BC, set daily temperature records from 32° to 34°C over 2 days. Street performers found that crowds were tougher to please in the heat, with one human statue unable to perform because of sweat running down her legs. Carriage horses were frequently hosed down. At Vancouver's Molson Indy, with cockpit temperatures of 50°C, drivers carried a plastic bladder of ice water in their cars.

22

Last Quarter ☾

**1920:** An intense rain-storm hit St. Catharines, ON, cutting telegraph and telephone service for 24 hours, and flooding homes and businesses. The storm killed 3 men in freak accidents and damaged a 90-year-old giant tree that had been brought from Napoleon's grave.

23

**2003:** Coastal fog continued for weeks in Halifax, NS, and Saint John, NB, as the result of a continuous flow of warm, moist air coming up the eastern seaboard and passing over the cold Bay of Fundy waters.

24

**30** **2004:** While summer's mixed bag of weather was lousy for vacationers and day trippers in Ontario, it was good for those with breathing difficulties who tend to suffer during smog and heat alerts.

**31** **2004:** Fallen trees, wrecked cars, and damaged homes dotted St. Joseph, NB, after an apparent tornado touched down. At least one mobile home flipped over with 4 people inside. Violent winds also cut power to several homes.

**Weather Quiz**  
Which country has the record for the highest recorded temperature?

25

- 1) Cuba
- 2) Bangladesh
- 3) Venezuela
- 4) Lebanon
- 5) Canada

(Answer on inside back cover)

New Moon ●

**2004:** Hot, dry winds continued to fan the wildfire at Lonesome Lake, BC, nearly tripling the size of the blaze and pushing it toward homes and the resort east of Tweedsmuir Park. Triggered in June, the fire destroyed several historic native graves and cultural sites. Its massive plume of smoke and ash clouded the skies over Vancouver Island, some 400 km away.

26

**1953:** Two cloudbursts, 4 hours apart, pounded the Exhibition in Regina, SK, but failed to spoil the crowd's spirits. Rain turned the midway into a sea of oozing mud and drove fairgoers into sideshow tents. It also forced cancellation of the light horse judging because the livestock ring was too wet for riders to put their mounts through their paces.

27

**1921:** A disastrous fire of unknown cause started in a lumberyard in the Miramichi, NB, and destroyed 4 million metres of sawn lumber, an office, a cookhouse, a boarding house, and 2 company residences. Strong winds blew it into an inferno. Twelve tugs and dozens of boats hauled water for the 600 firefighters working to quell the flames. Eventually the wind changed and the fire was extinguished.

28

**1951:** A wind-and-rain storm struck La Rivière, MB, blowing down 2 barns and disrupting hydro service. A man just home from the hospital after recuperating from a broken leg for 4 months broke the same leg in another place, in the debris of his collapsed barn. After being struck by lightning, the United Church near Basswood, MB, burned to the ground, but its contents were saved thanks to heavy rain.

29

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# AUGUST 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p><b>2004:</b> Picture-perfect weather, with temperature highs of 26°C in bright sunshine, brought large crowds to the Halifax, NS, waterfront, ensuring a successful Tall Ships Festival. About 500,000 people crowded every waterfront spot they could find to wave goodbye to about 40 tall ships.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>1907:</b> A brief but severe thunderstorm passed over Quebec City, QC, accompanied by heavy rain and hail the size of hen's eggs. At the peak of the storm, a train was crossing the bridge over the St. Charles River. Hailstones broke thousands of window panes throughout the city and smashed most of the windows in the passenger cars. During the storm many horses ran scared.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>1938:</b> Following a scorching day in eastern Quebec, a violent storm broke. One of the worst storms the province had ever seen, it caused 3 deaths and extensive property damage. Lightning killed 1 man when it struck the carriage in which he and his niece were driving. In St. Thecle, winds blew down the twin spires of the Roman Catholic Church and unroofed more than 45 buildings.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> At Rimbey, AB, a wet microburst or a straight-line wind damaged a B&amp;B run by a local couple, tossing their roof onto the front lawn. Rainwater poured into the roofless log house, flooding every room and soaking about 20 mattresses. The couple replaced the tin roof with tarps and re-opened for business. Also, winds approaching 140 km/h tossed a 2 x 4 plank through the box on the couple's truck.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Hurricane Alex, stronger than the previous Hurricane Juan, became a Category 3 hurricane as it blew harmlessly out to sea past Nova Scotia. It packed winds of 200 km/h and created 10-m seas off Newfoundland's Grand Banks. Accompanying the tropical storm were heavy rains and 1-m-high sea swells. It is extremely rare for such a strong hurricane to reach so far north so early in the season.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p>
			First Quarter ☾			
<p><b>1879:</b> A tornado at Bouctouche, NB, one of Canada's top-ten worst, killed 6, injured 10, and decimated 146 buildings, including the famous Bouctouche covered bridge. The twister crushed a mother to death, but spared the child in her arms. Oral tradition attributed the storm to a 19th century sorcerer named Dollard. He had sprung from his grave in the woods.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Residents of Sundre, AB, cleaned up following yesterday's devastating winds that dismembered hundreds of trees and scattered debris from smashed sheds and trailers. One resident described a dark ugly cloud with 12 fingerlike icicles going up and down from the sky to the ground; another, like a big purple tarp rolling across the sky. Miraculously, nobody was hurt.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1920:</b> Never in the history of Lynn Valley, BC, had it snowed in August and yet, when locals awoke this morning, it looked like a heavy blanket of grey snow covered the ground. The "snow" proved to be a heavy covering of ashes from bush fires at Rice Lake. The local newspaper reported that fine particles of dust penetrated homes, much to the displeasure of scrupulous housewives.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> A rare waterspout with its gyrating column of water and spray crossed right over the Confederation Bridge, PE. It stayed still and silent for 30 minutes before it started to move. Operators decided to close the bridge for about 3 minutes to allow it to cross. It was the first time a waterspout had passed over the bridge since it opened in 1997. There was no traffic on the bridge at the time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>1952:</b> The Parliamentary Library, damaged by water from fire hoses a week ago, suffered torrential rains that beat through holes in the roof made by firefighters, soaking an additional 4,000 volumes. Emergency crews of Boy Scouts, YMCA workers, and students from the University of Ottawa worked through the downpour to remove volumes still on the shelves. Public Works lost their battle to keep out the heavy rain.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> From 1 May to mid-August, St. John's, NL, reported 140 mm of rain—the lowest total for this time period since record-keeping began in 1942. The dry conditions prompted the city and neighbouring municipalities to toughen water-usage restrictions, putting a ban on non-commercial car washes and halving allowable lawn-watering. Water levels at local lakes were the lowest recorded in a long while.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Dense fog in the Saint John, NB, harbour forced the Tall Ships Challenge organizers to cancel the parade of sail. Dozens of small pleasure craft and their disappointed crew bobbed in the harbour as their operators, trying to keep warm, hoped for a closer look at the ships. Binoculars became useless in the sea fog. The water was quite choppy with visibility no more than 45 to 60 m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p>
	Civic Holiday		Full Moon ☽			
<p><b>2003:</b> Forest fires burning in the Crownsnest Pass (at the AB-BC border) produced thick smoke, ash, and haze over southern Alberta that was visible from space. People, complaining of eye irritation, itching, wheezing, and shortness of breath, were told to curtail outdoor activities. Pets also suffered. Hundreds of people called the 911 dispatch centre thinking their own communities were ablaze.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> For most of the summer, Yukon experienced record warm, dry conditions. Lightning started wildfires almost every day in early summer which resulted in outdoor burning bans. Smoke from more than double the average number of fires prompted daytime headlight use and prevented pilots from landing in Dawson City. The total charred area was over 18,000 square km or 3 times the size of PEI.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> For the third year in a row, tempestuous weather played havoc with the beach volleyball tournament in Yellowknife, NT. Players battled bitter cold (it was only 13°C at Long Lake Beach) and rain puddles on the courts. Controlling the ball in strong winds was an added challenge. It couldn't have been much worse. Organizers are considering moving the annual event from August to July.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>What do Britons call warm dry spells, no matter when they occur?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Queen's weather</li> <li>2) Sahara days</li> <li>3) Indian summer</li> <li>4) Halley's hell</li> <li>5) bee's knees</li> </ol> <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>1939:</b> About 82 mm of rain fell on Winnipeg, MB. It was one of the most severe rainstorms in its history, causing numerous road washouts, sidewalk cave-ins, and flooding of sewage water in one hospital and in the Legislative building. In Winkler, MB lightning destroyed a barn, burning 12 head of cattle and 2 horses. Backed-up water ruined huge quantities of dry goods, fruit, and other foods.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Snow pellets fell over downtown Winnipeg, MB, on what was also the windiest day of year, with gusts reaching 80 km/h. Earlier in the day, wild thunderstorms swept across the province and zapped out power supplies, toppled trees, and soaked fields. On Lake Manitoba, winds of 90 km/h whipped up waves almost 2 m high, damaging docks and boats and knocking down power lines.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>1898:</b> Lightning set fire to the largest lighthouse on the east pier at Port Dalhousie, DN. It also struck and burned down many barns, and all of the season's crops. Further, winds knocked down several derricks and shade trees. Farther south in Petrolia, the storm blew down a circus tent and upset several animal cages. Management quickly recovered the freed animals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p>
		Last Quarter ☾				

**2004:** Prairie farmers, in need of another 6 weeks of frost-free weather to ripen their crops, were devastated when killing frost struck parts of south and central Saskatchewan and Manitoba in one of the earliest major frosts in 50 years. Broadview was the coldest spot at -2.9°C. "What a year," said one farm expert. "Frost has appeared each and every month somewhere in the southern prairies."

20

**2004:** Up to 24 mm of rain fell in Vancouver, BC, confirming the local legend that it always rains on the Pacific National Exhibition's opening day. Fairgoers wore garbage bags after the free rain ponchos were scooped up. Despite torrential downpours, hail, severe wind, lightning, and thunder, 800,000 fairgoers braved the elements. In total, the PNE had 12 days of rain, tying the record set in 1960.

21

**1863:** Two car loads of sheep—75 sheep in total—belonging to several butchers in Saint John, NB, were brought in by train. Owing to the heavy rain at the time, railway officials kept the animals penned in the cars overnight. The next day only 6 sheep were alive, the remainder having suffocated.

22

**2004:** An army of tiger salamanders crawled across the University of Regina campus in Regina, SK. A local naturalist said they probably got flooded out of their habitat. The triggering event was likely a drop in barometric pressure that accompanied the rainstorm.

23

**1938:** Leaving a 160-km trail of destruction, a tornado roared south and west of Thunder Bay, ON, across 10 townships, levelling farm buildings, killing livestock, uprooting trees, and toppling telephone poles. One family was left homeless after winds tore their house apart, blew down their garage, rolled their car, and scattered their belongings. Some of their clothing was found the next day, 10 km away.

24

**2003:** "Being nervous of lightning ... I didn't talk on the plug-in phone. I was ... speaking on my portable phone at the time, however, because I thought it was safe. Not so! When lightning struck ... A filling in my tooth felt incredibl[y] painful, like I was sticking aluminum foil into it. It felt like electricity and it went on, most painfully for about 2 minutes." [personal communication, Bobbie Jean Huft, Perth, ON]

25

**2004:** The West Nile virus, carried by mosquitoes, all but disappeared as a threat in 2004. The temperatures recorded across Canada from May to August 2004 were the second coolest for the time period in 27 years. Mosquitoes breed less often in cool air, so there were fewer of them, and people went outside less often because of the inclement weather, further reducing their risk.

26

**1973:** Residents of Sudbury, ON, still living in fear of the "tornado" that killed 5 people 3 years ago, witnessed another severe summer storm passing near the city. Winds blew mightily and uprooted and flattened countless trees in its path. The storm also knocked the weather observer to the ground while he was taking the 11:00 PM observation.

27

**1955:** Two teen boys out in a rented motorboat on Lake Winnipeg, MB, had to battle a hail-and-rain storm without a working motor. They then spent a cold night on a small beach in the Netley marshes. One fisher reported that winds hit 120 km/h and whipped up 3-m waves. Said one boy: "What a sight it was when the seaplane came over in the morning and dipped his wings."

28

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

29

**2004:** The remnants of tropical storms Gaston and Hermine merged over the Gulf of Maine and dumped 30 to 50 mm of rain over parts of New Brunswick. Two hours earlier, at high tide, a thunderstorm had dropped 26 mm of rain on Moncton, causing local flooding. With water reaching the headlights of cars and over the wheels of pick-up trucks, authorities closed the causeway and towed away 9 vehicles.

30

**1924:** A colossal storm caused extensive damage in Quebec's Laurentians. It turned over flimsy summer cottages, barns, and outhouses, tossed a barn onto the highway near Trois Rivières, and threw several boaters into the water. A proprietor tried to shut off the electric power, fearing lightning, but he was hurled through the air by the wind and dashed against the side of a building.

31

New Moon ●

First Quarter ●



**AUGUST**

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6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
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27 28 29 30 31

It's all in a day's work on the windy shores of Lake Ontario, ON / Craig Robinson / Sun Media Corp.

**OCTOBER**

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# SEPTEMBER 2006

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

					<p><b>2004:</b> In southern BC, September roared in with high winds and driving rain. Winds gusted to 100 km/h, kicking up thick clouds of dust, uprooting trees, and cutting power to parts of Kamloops. The same storm triggered a lightning bolt that hit a construction worker in the Lower Mainland. The thunderstorm also set off alarms in a dozen buildings in Vancouver and seriously reduced visibility for drivers. <b>1</b></p>	<p><b>1938:</b> Eleven people died when torrential rains pounded eastern Quebec. The deluge raised water levels in several rivers and set off a rockslide on a tenement apartment building at St. Gregoire de Montmorency. Six members of one family drowned in their sleep when intense rains loosened a ponderous chunk of earth from the 50-m cliff. Standing water reached hip-high in spots. <b>2</b></p>
<p><b>1921:</b> The thermometer at Lunenburg, NS, registered 32°C in the shade. There was not a breath of wind and it hadn't rained in a month. The grass was bleached, garden produce wilted, and several wells and brooks dried up. Trouf died in vast numbers. It was common to see farmers hauling barrels of water for thirsty stock and domestic use. Forest fires burned near Guysboro, destroying the berry crop. <b>3</b></p>	<p><b>1922:</b> A severe thunderstorm swept through Moose Jaw, SK, killing 1 and injuring 5. Hail smashed windows and destroyed standing crop. A teenage boy was killed by lightning while stoking a field 20 minutes before the thunderstorm. The lightning also set fire to stokes on a neighbouring farm, but rain soon extinguished them. The storm also felled transmission poles over a stretch of 4 km. <b>4</b></p> <p>Labour Day</p>	<p><b>1847:</b> A tornado, first seen as a waterspout moving northeast on the St. Lawrence River, crossed into Canada about 3 km up-river from Massena, NY, and lifted near Lancaster, ON. The twister blew a 13-year-old girl across the canal above Cornwall, killing her. The storm lasted less than an hour, but in that time, it destroyed 57 buildings, together with all the furniture and grain in the houses and barns. <b>5</b></p>	<p><b>1905:</b> Two ranchers from Clover Bar, AB, narrowly escaped death by lightning. Inside, there was a sudden flash and a fireball the size of a mug, followed by an explosion that filled the house with gas. The "ball lightning" came down the stove pipe and ripped open the stove door. It splintered the floor in 5 places, a metre from where one of the men sat. Both men recovered completely from the shock. <b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b> <b>7</b></p> <p>What coastal area of Canada gets the most hurricanes?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) south coast of Cape Breton Island</li> <li>2) Bay of Fundy</li> <li>3) Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula</li> <li>4) Halifax and the Nova Scotia south coast</li> <li>5) PEI and the Gulf of St. Lawrence</li> </ol> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p>Full Moon ☉</p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Two men pleaded guilty in Moncton, NB, to stealing a bicycle in June. Police observed the men with the bicycle at 2:35 AM on June 15. One was on the bike with gloves and no helmet. Police thought the gloves suspicious, given the temperature—a mild 14°C. Upon confronting the two, police found bolt cutters in a knapsack. Then one suspect admitted to stealing property. <b>8</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> The remains of Hurricane Frances triggered rainfalls ranging from 50 to 100 mm across southeastern Ontario and southern Quebec. Hydro crews helping in hurricane-ravaged Florida returned home to restore power to their own communities. For Ottawa, it was the wettest day ever. On Parliament Hill, the deluge forced the Peace Tower to close and caused minor flooding in the restaurant for MPs and senators. <b>9</b></p>
<p><b>1942:</b> A tornado raced between Boissevain and Killarney, MB, blowing a woman out her upstairs window and killing her. At Killarney, winds lifted a calf 100 m into the air. A stable lifted intact, twisted slightly, then disappeared in a cloud of dust. On one farm, the twister sucked the pump out of a well, depositing it far away. It also wrecked a new car beyond repair—all that remained were 4 new tires. <b>10</b></p>	<p><b>1925:</b> A tornado swept out of the Ottawa Valley, ON, and along the St. Lawrence River's south shore. Incredibly, no one was seriously injured. At St. Brazel, QC, the winds stripped the tops off 6 boxcars parked on a siding, broke off a few saplings and deposited them in the cars, and then pushed the cars down the track, where they bumped into more box cars. The impromptu wind-powered train stopped a few metres from the main track. <b>11</b></p>	<p><b>1952:</b> Wind, rain, and hail combined to wreak havoc on crops in the Oak Lake, MB, area. The storm shattered windows, ripped a metal garage from its foundation, and cut hydro-electric services. In some places, hail lay 8 cm deep. At Fork River, MB, lightning severely damaged a Federal Grain company building. A volunteer bucket brigade saved a grain elevator from catching fire. <b>12</b></p>	<p><b>1954:</b> Hurricane Edna was responsible for 3 days of heavy rainfall, exceeding a total of 100 mm in northern New Brunswick. The storm swept away sawmills and covered bridges. Marooned cattle had to be rescued by boat or barge. Landslides blocked roads, and floods washed away telephone poles. Up to 10,000 cords of pulpwood broke loose and drifted into Chaleur Bay. <b>13</b></p>	<p><b>1925:</b> The fog was very dense off Kitsilano Beach, BC, but despite this, numerous bathers went in for a swim. In the fog, several strong swimmers could not locate the beach—2 of them were on the verge of sinking in near exhaustion. A life guard saved the 2 by resting on his oars and listening in silence for sounds that would tell him in which direction the shore lay. <b>14</b></p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>1816:</b> Two centuries ago, PEI's mouse problems were legendary. Mice were known to cut down an acre of grain in 3 days and had destroyed most crops. As the weather cooled down in late September, mice gradually died by the thousands, on land and at sea. Codfish caught off the coast had mouse carcasses in their jaws. As suddenly as they had come, the mice had disappeared through starvation. <b>15</b></p>	<p><b>2003:</b> In Calgary, AB, residents woke to 3 cm of snow. The heaviest dumps of the summer snowstorm were in the Rockies where Jasper and Banff got up to 25 cm. Ski-hill operators cheered, but locals jeered. The late summer snow and cold put an abrupt end to the mosquito season and helped to cool hot spots in the still smouldering Lost Creek wildfire. It was also a wake-up call to winter sport retailers! <b>16</b></p>

**1927:** A violent gale swept across Manitoba's Lake Winnipeg at Grand and Victoria beaches. Five-metre breaker waves crashed on shore, heavy rains washed out railway tracks in 12 places, and cottagers were stranded. The waves undermined several small docks, and a breakwater was submerged under a metre of water. A special train was dispatched to Grand Beach to start repair work on the inundated roadbed.

17

**1932:** A veteran prospector staggered into a mining office at Sioux Lookout, ON, to register a claim for what he said was the richest gold find in years. He discovered it by accident after being blown ashore on Woman Lake by a terrific storm. For 3 days he wandered the island without food, before stumbling across a mossy patch that partly obscured a rich ore vein, which measured 30 cm by 70 m.

18

**2004:** A heavy rainfall of 91.2 mm set a single day record at Vancouver International Airport in BC. The previous record for a single day was 89.4 mm, set on Christmas Day 1972. As it turned out, the city got a total of 196.4 mm of rain in September, more than 3 times the normal rainfall for that month.

19

**2004:** Moisture from the remains of Hurricane Ivan helped fuel another strong fall storm that hit Atlantic Canada, causing power outages and delaying ferry services. Strong winds churned up Sydney Harbour, cancelling the first Canadian docking of the *Queen Mary 2*. Seas in the Cabot Strait reached from 5 to 8 m. As many as 20,000 customers on Cape Breton Island lost power at the height of the storm.

20

**2004:** High winds, heavy rains, and blinding snow pounded Nunavut, ripping the roof off a house, knocking down power lines, and leaving hundreds without power. At Salluit in Nunavik (QC), winds approaching 120 km/h overturned shipping containers that weighed more than 2,000 kg each and destroyed many sheds and garages. Sixteen families were told to leave their homes.

21

**1929:** Three men died when a Western Canada Airways plane crashed into less than 1 m of water in Lake Manitoba, during smoky, foggy weather. The pilot had likely miscalculated the water's surface and thought that his pontooned plane could land safely. One passenger who perished was Arthur Hunt Chute, a well-known novelist, en route to Churchill for researching stories for the *Saturday Evening Post*.

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 after battling for life all night. Mountainous waves made it impossible to keep the bodies of the dead men in the boat. One man floated in alone to be found unconscious on the beach and barely alive.

23

Rosh Hashanah Begins  
Autumn Equinox  
00:03 EDT

New Moon ●

**2004:** Finally, after an abnormally cold summer in southern Ontario and Quebec, summerlike weather arrived in the last weekend of September. The average temperature for the month was about 3 degrees warmer than normal—the second warmest average temperature on record. Hamilton had a high of 28°C—a record for this day in history. Toronto fittingly had a smog advisory—the latest one ever.

24

**1950:** In southern Ontario, residents wondered why skies were dark at noon. Said Patricia Mestern of Fergus, ON: "Birds thinking it was night, didn't fly, nor did they sing. The next day ... the papers were full of news about forest fire smoke from Western Canada blocking out the sun ... Nine months later, when a large number of babies were born, doctors referred to them as 'babes of the big smoke.'"

25

**2003:** Brilliant blue skies and warm temperatures prevailed over BC's Pacific Coast. Temperatures soared above 30°C at a number of coastal and inland communities. In the interior, vintners delighted over the 4 months of almost unbroken sunshine, warmth, and occasionally cool nights. One vintner predicted a 25% increase over last year's record grape harvest.

26

**1898:** Described in newspapers as "a gyrating monster," a tornado carved a path of destruction near St. Catharines, ON, through Merriton, and south of Niagara Falls. It destroyed 15 homes and several factories. Worst hit was the Lincoln Paper Mill where 2 people were killed when the roof fell on 100 workers. At Merriton, flying debris killed an infant in her mother's arms as she ran for the cellar.

27

**1853:** A frightful easterly gale blew across the Bay of Fundy near St. Stephen, NB. Several large vessels lying in the harbour dragged their anchors, and 2 of them grounded on Navy Island Bar, but, with the ground being soft, they sustained no serious damage. In the shipyard, a building blew down and debris struck a ship under construction. Fortunately, no workmen were injured.

28

**2003:** A 1.5-m storm surge from Hurricane Juan resulted in the highest water level ever recorded in Halifax (NS) harbour. Had Juan hit just a few hours sooner, the surge could have been 0.5 m higher and caused more extensive damage. Juan also forced the evacuation of the Canadian Hurricane Centre in Dartmouth where the 19-floor building swayed so badly, forecasters became nauseated.

29

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

30

First Quarter ●

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# OCTOBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1910:</b> A brief but torrential rain and wind storm swept across Montreal, QC. Two men died and several others were injured. Hurricane-force winds toppled telegraph, telephone, and lighting poles. Nearby, unpicked fruit was blown hundreds of metres away. Windows in all parts of the city were broken. A workman at the quarry was blown clear of the scaffolding and landed in a nearby apple tree.</p> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Yom Kippur</p>	<p><b>1977:</b> A man and a young boy drowned off Nova Scotia as high winds and heavy rain lashed the Maritimes. The man fell out of a small boat and drowned in choppy water at Peggy's Cove. The boy slipped off rocks at Herring Cove. Breaking waves swept spray 15 m into the air. Because strong winds made docking difficult, officials halted CN ferry services between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.</p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p><b>1851:</b> Following a fierce gale, wrecks of 80 vessels lined the north shore of Prince Edward Island. For weeks afterward, the corpses of drowned men were taken from the wrecked ships washed onshore. In one incident, the body of a drowned man came onshore with a small child, still alive, lashed on his back.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Fog grounded at least 17 provincial politicians in Vancouver, BC, as all flights were cancelled to the capital, Victoria. The delays came on the opening day of the BC legislature's fall sitting. A number of MLAs, including both house leaders, spent hours waiting for flights before finally taking the ferry to Victoria. In autumn, the sun is not intense enough to burn off fog like it does in the summer.</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>1923:</b> Torrential rains and record floods swamped Truro, NS, and nearby villages, resulting in the destruction of bridges, flooded cellars, downed trees, and disrupted traffic. Winds felled the flagpole at the post office, breaking it below ground level. Sheaves of grain and drowned pigs floated down the swollen Salmon River. The enlarged creek took out a barn from which a horse disappeared forever.</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Full Moon ☉</p>	<p><b>1939:</b> Weather delayed 2 crown witnesses from appearing at a manslaughter case before the Manitoba Supreme Court. A heavy rainstorm forced their plane down on Lount Lake, near Kenora, ON. On 5 occasions over 3 days they tried to take off, only to be forced down by poor visibility and incessant rains. Their chief worry was having enough cigarettes and fuel. In the end, they made it before the grand jury.</p> <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Last Quarter ☾</p>	<p><b>2004:</b> The fall weather was so good that it helped many in the east forget what a rotten summer it had been. In Kitchener, this day was the warmest ever at 25°C—some 11° above normal. Following a cool, wet summer, perfect fall weather produced a strong crop of leaves, and the colours seemed more vibrant than ever. Owners of small resorts and bed and breakfasts around Ontario were delighted.</p> <p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>2004:</b> A bank robber in Sault Ste. Marie, ON, was still on the loose 5 days after a hold-up. Because it was raining hard when he made his escape, conditions were not favourable for tracking him. Eagle, the local force's police dog, had died and a replacement wasn't expected until the end of the year. In the interim, a Michigan State police dog tracked the thief to Great Northern Road before losing his trail.</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>What is a storm that never threatens land called?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) tropical depression</li> <li>2) marine cyclone</li> <li>3) lobster bisque</li> <li>4) fish storm</li> <li>5) old salt</li> </ol> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p><b>1896:</b> A gale off Cape Race, NL, dashed a ship on St. Paul's Island, drowning 10 people. One of 2 survivors wrote: "I was washed around the stern towards the shore and ... my feet touched bottom, only to be washed away 3 times. The 4th time I ... was taken by a tremendous wave clean up into the scraggy woods. After gathering sufficient strength, I ... took off my clothes ..., when the only other survivor came along."</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>1935:</b> An old-timer forecasted a long tough winter in Yukon because a squirrel occupying a birdhouse had put on a storm door of heavy cardboard such that it automatically opened with a south wind and closed with a north wind. Another squirrel was seen weaving a blanket of feathers from a grouse killed by a hawk.</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Tropical storm Nicole merged with an intense storm system about 600 km southwest of Nova Scotia. The hybrid storm brought winds of 90 km/h to all Atlantic provinces, although western Cape Breton felt the strongest winds, gusting to 130 km/h. The high winds uprooted trees and ripped down electrical wires. The Annapolis Valley was also hit hard, right in the middle of the apple harvest.</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>1973:</b> When high winds, at 90 km/h, swept off Lake Huron, they piled water into the Goderich, ON, harbour and completely submerged the piers and docks on the waterfront. The winds downed power lines, television antennae, and towers, and tore out trees by the roots. Crews used bulldozers to shove trees into ditches to get traffic moving. The wind also blew branches on top of a store and a parked car.</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> The Winnipeg Blue Bombers (MB) had their worst season's attendance in 5 years, with losses approaching \$500,000. Officials blamed the weather, not the team's on-field performance. Four of 5 games on a Thursday night featured dismal weather, discouraging walk-up crowds.</p> <p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>2003:</b> In BC, Greater Victoria's water, which smelled earthy and musty like corn husks or peat, prompted a record 400 complaints. The culprit was an algal bloom. In late September, northerly winds and wave action concentrated the organisms near the city's water intake system. Algae bloom in fall because of increased nutrient availability, abundant sunshine, and unseasonably warm weather.</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> A low-pressure system tracking eastward across the prairies dropped from 15 to 25 cm of snow. Edmonton, AB, got 25 cm. Saskatoon, SK, received 15 cm—the earliest dump in 6 years. The heavy, wet snow weighed down trees, especially willow, pine, and spruce. The snow spared Winnipeg, MB, but freezing rain turned city streets into a skating rink, forcing police to close bridges for at least 2 hours.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>1836:</b> A violent gale on Point du Lac, QC, wrecked 4 pine and oak boats with the tragic loss of 25 lives.</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>1939:</b> Hundreds of men fought disastrous bush fires across Manitoba. In the Riding Mountain and inter-lakes district, rain and snow effectively smothered flames which earlier in the day had been leaping high. Flames, fanned by a stiff breeze, swooped down on Ashern, frightening residents, and burning 200 tonnes of hay and much cordwood.</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> The Winnipeg Blue Bombers (MB) football club decided to alter their travel schedule for a critical game against the Edmonton Eskimos (AB). They departed a day early to get acclimatized to conditions in the "frigid" Alberta capital. As one Winnipeg reporter reminded his readers: "... this is the Winnipeg Blue Bombers we're talking about here, not the Waikiki Blue Bombers."</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>1873:</b> From the <i>Quebec Mercury</i>: "Rain fell in Ottawa almost continuously since Saturday evening. From last evening until three o'clock this morning, unusual flocks of millions of wild fowl passed over the city."</p> <p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>1898:</b> The steamer <i>Gelivera</i> was crossing the Atlantic in high seas. The waves smashed her starboard glg, breaking the lifeboat and gangway into pieces. Hailstones as large as duck's eggs fell. The next day the sea flooded the wheelhouse, chart room, and cabins. The steamer ran so short of fuel that the crew burned 50 tonnes of sugar to generate enough steam to get to St. John's, NL.</p> <p><b>21</b></p>

**2004:** A significant weather system north of Lake Superior soaked the region around Nipigon and Red Rock, ON, with 75 to 100 mm of rain, which damaged major highways and roads, forcing officials to close 4 sections of Highway 17. CP Rail also worked to repair a 30-m section of washed-out track near the highway. Winds at 83 km/h uprooted 300 trees into the Cypress River which empties into Nipigon Bay.

22

New Moon ●

**1908:** A blizzard tied up traffic in Edmonton, AB, for 2 days and also drove 2,500 sheep into a lake where they perished. A young man from Boyle Lake went looking for the missing animals but never returned home. He was lightly clad in a sweater and had neither matches nor food with him. The storm stalled trains for 2 days.

23

**2003:** Rufous, a rare red panda, was born to her parents, Dash and Slash, at the Winnipeg, MB, zoo. Only 6 have been bred in captivity in Canada. Zoologists believe Winnipeg's weather, coupled with good care, had stimulated the pair to mate. They were housed in a large exhibit that allowed them to experience both warm and cold seasons, similar to their home conditions in the mountains of China and Nepal.

24

**1859:** Just before daybreak, a tornado burst upon Coldwater, ON. Several buildings were blown to pieces. The twister lifted a school house from its foundation and carried it into an adjoining lot. It blew roofs and barns out of sight. Even household articles wafted through the air to parts unknown. Had this occurred when residents were not in their beds, many lives would likely have been lost.

25

**2004:** The air quality index climbed to 103 in downtown Hamilton, ON—the worst smog level ever attained in Ontario, and the latest smog advisory ever issued by the province. The culprit pollutant was fine particulate matter coming from vehicles, industry, and road dust. Between the Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario, the sinking air over Hamilton trapped all the city's pollutants in the downtown.

26

**2002:** City police and sanding crews in Winnipeg, MB, were kept busy when a dusting of snow combined with freezing temperatures to make bridges and overpasses impassable. Outside the city, vehicles were sliding but without any major incidents. Still, the RCMP advised motorists to stay off the highways. Ski shops were also busy. With a little bit of snow, many people began looking ahead to winter.

27

**1921:** Forty people died in Britannia Beach, BC, in some of the most disastrous flooding in history. Half of the 110 freshly-painted cottages were washed away on the crest of the flood. Survivors said that the worst part of the disaster was the crying of the injured or bewildered villagers. One man climbed onto the roof of his house, which was bobbing about in Howe Sound.

28

Daylight Saving Time Ends

**1936:** A tornado raced from the Bay of Quinte to Trenton, ON. It destroyed a barn and a hangar as airmen inside scurried to safety, and lifted a man for 150 m. An anemometer recorded a wind gust of 150 km/h. Flying debris killed 2 construction workers. A constable from Trenton said: "It seems to have been a small, snappy, ugly sample of a real southern twister. And it didn't last more than 2 minutes."

29

First Quarter ●

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

30

**1929:** A strong, north-easterly winter blast with wet snow wreaked havoc on Winnipeg, MB. Unable to bear the weight of the water-soaked snow, trees, and power and telephone lines toppled to the ground, narrowly missing pedestrians and cars. It took several days to repair the damage. City police, on duty to control Halloween revelers, instead kept onlookers away from live wires.



31

Halloween

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
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29 30 31

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10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
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31

# NOVEMBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p><b>1845:</b> A 4-day storm caused an unprecedented rise of water in the Kennebec River, NB. Church bells rang at 6 AM to warn citizens that the river was about to flood. Water filled cellars up to 2 m deep, submerged wharves, and carried away every moveable object within 7 m of the shore, including thousands of logs. Masts of some tall vessels now inland could be seen directly outside office windows.</p> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>All Saints' Day</p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Despite flurries and sub-zero temperatures, hundreds of Shania Twain fans came to Timmins, ON, to be there when their idol opened the Shania Twain Centre. Local residents say it always rains or snows when Shania comes to town. Today, the temperature hovered at 0°C and it did a bit of both—rain and snow. Commenting the next day, Shania said: "I was just really proud, but I froze my butt off."</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>1922:</b> A northwesterly gale-force wind generated tremendous seas that rolled through the fishing villages on the northern coast of Cape Breton Island, NS. The storm raged for more than 24 hours with winds exceeding 130 km/h. At Wreck Cove, NS, the recently-repaired pier at Government Crib was destroyed with little sign remaining of the pile of heavy rock and gravel that weighed the timber down.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>1932:</b> One man died and several others were injured when high winds collapsed a partly-rebuilt wall at a skating rink in Medicine Hat, AB, recently destroyed by fire. The victim became buried beneath lumber, bricks, and other debris when the half-built wall crumbled. High winds blew all morning but became stronger and gustier towards noon.</p> <p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>2004:</b> A boy on a school trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, ON, died when strong winds downed a tree on top of him. It was the first fatality in the 36-year-old scenic nature park's history. The tree was 10 m tall and 111 cm around at the base—the girth of a big man's chest. It had been windy that morning, but the weather was not severe enough to raise warning flags among the RBG staff and teachers.</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Full Moon </p>	<p><b>1907:</b> A severe thunder-shower, unusual for this time of year, passed across the Eastern Townships of Quebec. It was accompanied by terrific winds and heavy rains. At Thetford Mines, wind blew the roof off a house, and blew over 2 large smokestacks at the factory and the skylight in the Opera House. Several residents became anxious when their houses swayed and shook in the wind.</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>1913:</b> The ship <i>Regina</i> sank on Lake Huron, killing all 20 crew members. In all, 15 ships went down over a 4-day period, drowning 248 men in what became known as the "Storm of the Century"—the greatest disaster ever to hit the Great Lakes. At the peak of the storm, 145 km/h winds and 10.5-m waves pummelled the shore. Ironically, until then, trade magazines had been celebrating a safe shipping season.</p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> A tug towing two barges northwest of Vancouver, BC, vanished. Search vessels battled gale-strength winds, poor visibility, rain, and choppy seas. Rescuers located a debris field and an empty life raft but no other signs of life. The tug likely sank in 250 m of water to the bottom of the Strait of Georgia. The strong current may have moved the barge and the bodies a fair distance from the sinking.</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b></p> <p>What winter activity do Canadian male drivers seem to detest the most?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) driving</li> <li>2) clearing snow and ice from windshields</li> <li>3) filling windshield washer reservoirs</li> <li>4) pumping gas</li> <li>5) checking tire pressure</li> </ol> <p>(Answer on inside back cover)</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> A larger-than-normal amount of plasma material ejected from the sun passed through the earth's magnetic field, increasing the field's intensity. The extra charge was visible in a vibrant display of northern lights in the clear night sky. Whether you saw anything though depended entirely on the weather. The light show was especially spectacular across northern and central BC, and Alberta.</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>1938:</b> In southern Alberta, a howling wind whipped deep snows into huge drifts. Lethbridge received 25 cm of snow on level ground, with drifts on highways measuring more than 1 m. Street car service in the city was brought to a standstill. In preparation for heavier falls expected that winter, the province had purchased 2 rotary snowplows and 2 straight plows.</p> <p>Remembrance Day</p> <p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>2003:</b> A fierce windstorm blew across most of Ontario. In Toronto, winds topped 110 km/h, sending debris everywhere, wreaking havoc on the roads, and leaving some people without power. Winds blew recycling boxes and garbage bins around in the streets, and forced bike couriers to dismount and walk. On the Skyway Bridge, near Hamilton, winds pushed police cruisers out of their lanes.</p> <p><b>12</b></p> <p>Last Quarter </p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Nova Scotia was hit with a thick blanket of wet, slushy snow, the heaviest dump on record so early in the season. The sticky snow, with twice the adhesion of White Juan's snow, produced a huge stress load on trees, power lines, and transmission towers. The Nova Scotia power grid failed when icing brought down 15 towers and thousands of kilometres of cable and wire. 110,000 customers lost power.</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Unseasonably mild temperatures prevailed across Manitoba, nature's way of paying Manitobans back for a lousy summer. Berets River on Lake Winnipeg reached 7.2°C—a new high record. People credited El Nino for allowing Westerners to rake leaves in November, put up outdoor Christmas lights, and to finish the harvest. One construction worker said to pour cement in November was a bonus.</p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>1942:</b> Edmonton experienced its worst blizzard ever with 50.8 cm of snow. Three people died, 1 in a car accident and the other 2 from heart attacks as they struggled through the deep drifts. Some families shivered in the cold because coal trucks couldn't make it down residential streets to replenish fuel supplies.</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> More than 70 mm of rain fell in 24 hours in St. John's, NL. Streets flooded, driving was perilous, and storm sewers backed up. The flood closed a number of roads in the Newfoundland capital. Further, rivers overflowed onto some properties and water filled basements to a metre deep. Some residents complained that culverts hadn't been cleaned out in some time, thus contributing to the flooding.</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>1819:</b> Around noon in Montreal, QC, the sky turned inky black, a sooty rain fell, and later, a tremor shook the city. Frightened citizens went to church. Suddenly, a lightning bolt struck Notre Dame. Hundreds tried to save the spire which began to smoke and burn. Volunteer fire-fighters and others operated a bucket brigade to battle the flames. Around 8 PM the iron cross fell to the ground with a crash.</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>1922:</b> The steamer <i>City of Dresden</i>, carrying 1,000 cases and 500 kegs of bootleg whisky, broke up in 15-m waves during a storm on Lake Erie at Long Point. The 5 survivors managed to reach the beach safely. The whisky was grabbed and hidden as quickly as it washed ashore. Reminiscent of pre-prohibition days, whole cases were loaded into waiting automobiles and conveyed to unknown destinations. Very little of the illegal cargo was ever recovered by police.</p> <p><b>18</b></p>

1958: In a race for medical help during a raging blizzard, a man broke ice on Kissinging Lake in Manitoba in a small canoe. The soft ice made it unsafe to send a plane but a mining company supplied a helicopter for the trip. Unfortunately, the mercy flight came too late. They found a young mother dead in a lonely cabin with her newly-born baby lying alive, wrapped in rabbit and fox furs.

19

1862: A 2-day heavy rain caused flooding of the Saint John River, NB, leading to enormous losses to mills, farm fields, embankments, bridges, and barns. Authorities felt that most floating logs picked up along the river would fall into the wrong hands. At that time, there was a stringent law for punishing people who appropriated drift timber that was not their own. Rebuilding damaged bridges was expensive.

20

2004: High winds and 6-m waves kept containment crews from cleaning up a slick of 170,000 litres of thick, heavy oil spilled off the coast of Newfoundland. It was the largest spill ever for Canada's east coast offshore industry. The accident occurred at the worst possible time for seabirds migrating from the Arctic.

21

1930: Roaring bush fires threatened communities in northern Alberta. Five farmers near Lisburn lost their homes, stables, and stock. In Edmonton, the wind reached 100 km/h, blowing down building cornices and utility poles, causing power failures. At Drumheller, a near panic resulted when the wind tore the roof from the Napier Theatre. At the same instant, suction blew open the emergency escape doors.

22

2003: For the first time in its 14-year history, organizers of the Santa Claus parade in Saskatoon, SK, cancelled the event, deeming it too cold for children and marching bands. The mid-morning wind chill was -32. Parade organizers had previously decided -25°C for the cutoff temperature. Musical instruments froze in the cold. Hundreds of volunteers and thousands of spectators were disappointed.

23

1927: Cold weather forced the plane *Queen of the Yukon* down 60 km south of Mayo. The plane's lubricating system had frozen at -45°C, at an altitude of 1,000 m. The pilot glided his plane onto a 200-m-long frozen lake, surrounded by spruce trees. He and his passenger spent 24 hours on the trail without food or shelter before reaching safety. The pilot repaired the plane but had to unload it for takeoff.

24

1932: Exhausted by sobbing, exposure, and hunger, a 4-year-old Japanese boy was found alone in a small boat adrift in heavy fog near Kirkland Island, BC. His father was believed to have drowned in the Fraser River. Apparently, the boat continued until the gasoline ran out, drifting towards the Strait of Georgia. The boy told police that he went to sleep in the boat but when he awoke his father was gone.

25

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

26

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

27

2003: Snow and strong wind made for treacherous driving across southwestern Alberta. Gusts of 139 km/h tore the roof from a Pincher Creek Super 8 Motel. The building shook before the roof lifted off. The front-desk clerk said she couldn't even stand up. Wind contributed to collisions that stranded dozens of motorists. Sanding roads proved futile as the sand was blown away before it could land on the road.

28

1931: Several skaters crashed through thin ice in Stanley Park in Vancouver, BC. Many of them were exhausted from exposure when rescued. So common were the crashes through the ice that spectators refused to turn to look, instead waiting for skaters to tumble before their eyes. On one occasion, 6 persons went through the ice in quick succession in their hurry to rescue an attractive, young woman.

29

1835: Two military police in a skiff near Kingston, ON, on the lookout for deserters, got entangled in floating ice chunks, in intense cold. The heavy sea kept tossing ice into their boat. One policeman, exhausted from tossing ice back into the water, wrapped himself in sails and lay down beside his companion who was frozen stiff. He eventually crawled to land over the ice, a distance of about 200 m.

30



New Moon ●

First Quarter ●

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28	29	30	31							

# DECEMBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p><b>1926:</b> With their night clothing burned off, a young couple from Carlyle, SK, and their baby were forced into a howling blizzard when flames devoured their farm house. With the nearest neighbour 1 km away, the wife, clad only in stockings, lay in the barn with her baby. Meanwhile, her husband, wearing only rubber boots, used pails full of water to save the barn. His feet were badly frost-bitten.</p>	<p><b>1930:</b> Two young hunters came to an ice-covered stream near Richmond, QC. One man decided to test the strength of the ice, so he hammered it with the butt of his rifle. The sudden jar caused the weapon to discharge a bullet, which hit him in the head, killing him instantly.</p>
<p><b>1937:</b> A teenager from Shaunavon, SK, rode his horse to school in a blinding blizzard to pick up his nephew. At school, he learned the teacher had taken the children to a nearby farm. The teen started for home. When he didn't show up, people thought he was either at the school or at home. Two days later, his body was found in a snowdrift. Likely his horse was disoriented by the blizzard.</p>	<p><b>1854:</b> Hurricane-force winds blew at Saint John, NB. The winds smashed the new wharves at Reed's Point. Had the wind originated a little more to the south, the steamer <i>Adelaide</i> would have been smashed to pieces. Last week, the Saint John River in Fredericton was frozen solid, but following the storm not a particle of ice was to be seen.</p>	<p><b>1921:</b> An intense storm suddenly sprang up along Newfoundland's east coast. It raged for hours with almost unprecedented violence. Locals said the "bottom fell out of the glass," meaning the barometric pressure was unusually low, giving rise to a strong blow. The storm tossed ships around in St. John's harbour, blowing down chimneys and telegraph poles. Eleven people died in the storm.</p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Winter's first snowfall in Toronto, ON, made for treacherous driving in Monday morning rush hour, causing an average of 2 crashes per minute. The storm snarled traffic, closed roads, and made many commuters late. Near London, a jackknifed truck carrying Toronto garbage bound for Michigan shut down part of the highway. Garbage spilled onto the median and a backhoe was used to unload the remaining trash.</p>	<p><b>1907:</b> In a dastardly act, 2 men offered a 6-year-old boy 10 cents to test the ice on Toronto's Don River. The little fellow went out a couple of metres and fell through. Both men ran away, leaving the boy to drown. Earlier, they had tried to bribe little girls to do the same thing, but they refused. In the end, the girls identified them.</p>	<p><b>2004:</b> A 2-year-old boy from Strathmore, AB, followed his working father into frigid darkness at 4 AM. Wearing sweatpants and his winter boots, he unlocked the front door and opened the screen door. He couldn't get back inside and fell a few times in the snow. After spending nearly 30 minutes in -20°C, the tot, suffering mild frostbite to his fingers, wakened a neighbour with his whimpering.</p>	<p><b>1939:</b> A howling gale ravaged the coast from the northern Vancouver Island, BC, to southern Oregon, sending ships scurrying for cover, tearing down trees, and flooding homes. A logging train plunged into the Franklin River, injuring 26. The engine fell into a gully, dragging the passenger coach with it. A knee-deep water surge filled the main street of Zeballos with logs that blocked traffic.</p>
	Full Moon 					
<p><b>1905:</b> In the early 1900s, most Canadian cities had bylaws requiring citizens to clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 4 hours. If snow fell at night, it had to be cleared before noon. If the ice was too hard to remove, the bylaw stated that ashes should be strewn on the snow to prevent people from slipping. Businesses failing to remove the snow were warned to clear their sidewalks without delay.</p>	<p><b>Weather Quiz</b> What was the first image taken by the first weather satellite?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) ice at the North Pole</li> <li>2) a tropical storm over the Coral Sea</li> <li>3) ice breakup in the St. Lawrence Seaway</li> <li>4) the Gulf Stream</li> <li>5) a rainstorm over Los Angeles</li> </ol> <p><i>(Answer on inside back cover)</i></p>	<p><b>2004:</b> An Alberta clipper whizzed through Manitoba, instantly making travel in the Winnipeg area treacherous. Beneath the fresh snowcover was a slick layer of ice. High winds reduced visibility to less than a kilometre. Between Ste.-Agathe and Emerson, MB, at least 12 vehicles slid into the ditch in one 2-hour period. Some tow truck drivers refused to go out because conditions were too dangerous.</p>	<p><b>2004:</b> Farmers in southern Alberta usually empty their sewage lagoons in the spring and fall. But this year, crops were harvested late and farmers put off spreading sewage on the frozen land, because it could not be absorbed. One family with an asthmatic son had to move off their farm near Donaldia because of odours coming from nearby sprayed fields. Eventually, snow capped the effluent and its smells.</p>	<p><b>1891:</b> Strong winds near Macleod, AB, blew down fences and farm outbuildings. It also tore the roofs from several sheds and collapsed 2 chimneys on the Roman Catholic mission church. The Presbyterian Church was shifted a few centimetres. Winds filled the air with barrels, tin cans, boards, and rocks. At the police barracks, the wagon shed was partly unroofed, and the carpenter shop shifted 15 cm.</p>	<p><b>2004:</b> About 5 years ago, hunters at Resolute Bay, NU, started noticing that dark winter nights, which used to be so pitch black that most hunters didn't venture out, were brightening into noon-hour twilight. Among the explanations offered: it's a sign of increased air pollution; the north is moving south; there's a roving magnetic North Pole; and, most likely, global warming.</p>	<p><b>1933:</b> Twenty-three of 26 fishermen escaped from their burning schooner near Yarmouth, NS. Four told of a cruel prank of fate. They had been rowing for hours when suddenly a light in the distance flashed hope of rescue, but their hopes were shattered when, through the blinding snow, they recognized their own blazing schooner. Freezing and exhausted, they kept rowing and some hours later they were safe.</p>
		Last Quarter 				Chanukah Begins

**1958:** In Manitoba, veteran Winnipeg police officers said that over the years during a snowstorm or bouts of severe cold crime falls by 10% or more. However, if the cold weather prevails for an extended period, the crime statistics return to normal. Apparently, criminals get acclimatized.

17

**2004:** Recent warm weather and snow cover meant several outdoor skating ponds in Edmonton, AB, had 13-cm ice that was too thin to support grooming equipment such as snowplows, sweepers, and watering trucks. Crews started using snow blowers to allow colder night temperatures to penetrate and thicken the ice. Some skaters tested the ice thickness by drilling holes.

18

**1933:** Floods along the Fraser River in BC inundated thousands of hectares of rich farmland, especially Chinese truck gardens and greenhouses. Strong westerly winds pushed high tides inland. The floods drowned 40 sheep and several hogs at the B.C. Livestock Exchange. Horses stood in water up to their neck and whinnied in fear. At Mud Bay, 2-m rollers roared over the site where the dyke once had been.

19

**2004:** A wind swept from Edson, AB, to the Saskatchewan border, felling trees, toppling radio towers, flipping small planes, tearing up roofs, and knocking out power to thousands. In a freak accident, the 100-km/h winds blew a kite boarder into an abandoned church in Alberta Beach, killing the adventurer. Wind gusts recorded at Edmonton's City Centre Airport tied the December record of 98 km/h.

20

**1923:** To play golf on the first day of winter is unusual enough in itself, but to have your game sadly interfered with and the accuracy of your game disturbed by a number of thirsty blood-sucking mosquitoes is more unusual still. That was the experience of golfers at the Humber Valley Course in Toronto, ON.

21

**1919:** A century ago, delivering mail in the BC mountains often took its toll on horses and mules, especially in winter. In the Revelstoke area, 1 courier lost 30 animals to the snow, cold, and freezing rain. One mail carrier called "Die the Bear" invented circular snowshoes for horses, about 30 cm across and constructed from birch. To protect the horse's legs Ole Bear covered them with blankets.

22

**2004:** A major pre-Christmas storm roared through the Lower Great Lakes. In Ottawa, 9 cm of snow fell, followed by 20 mm of rain and freezing rain, and a flash freeze. Cars surfed through water up to their hub caps. Travellers from Windsor to Timmins became stranded, delaying family reunions and celebrations across the nation. Metro Toronto Zoo, usually open except on Christmas, closed to the public.

23

**1853:** Three passengers from a ferry canoe at Pointe de Levy, QC, were marooned on a massive ice sheet drifting down-river. They were rescued on Sunday, having spent nearly 24 hours on the river.

24

**1934:** For the first time in 8 years, Vancouver, BC, had a white Christmas. In total, 10 cm of snow fell, making it the snowiest Christmas Day since record-keeping started in 1898. "Oh mummy, look!" one 4-year-old exclaimed: "They're making everything all clean for Christmas." Thousands of children went sliding down hilly streets and everywhere, snowman-making and snow fights were in progress.

25

**1902:** Near Sarnia, ON, a train plowed into a freight train at about 10 PM. Twenty-eight people died, making it one of the worst railway wrecks in Canadian history. At the same time, there was a raging storm underway. Some of the passengers beneath the wreck were held down for 3 hours. Many victims succumbed from the effects of the biting cold and winds. It is said that whisky helped to keep some of the survivors alive.

26

**2004:** A major nor'easter brought 50 cm of heavy snow and whiteout conditions to parts of Atlantic Canada. Blizzard conditions lasted up to 15 hours. Public transit was at a virtual standstill, but shoppers braved the weather to get Boxing Day bargains. Police in Saint John, NB, rented 4-wheel-drive SUVs. At North Rustico, PE, one family left their home by boat when slushy water rose over their mailbox.

27

**1877:** In Montreal, QC, there was no snow, and temperatures were warm. At the Royal Montreal golf course, members played a few rounds. A farmer ploughed a field and sheep grazed on the slopes of Mount Royal. One fanciful explanation for the mildness was that an earthquake had cut the area loose from its moorings and shifted it to warmer regions farther south. A week later 41 cm of snow fell in the city.

28

**1933:** A North Atlantic storm lashed the rugged east coast of Newfoundland for days. Slabs of ice trapped vessels fast along the coast. One ship was loaded with fish from the outports when the ice floes—3 to 5 m thick—piled up on all sides of the vessel several kilometres off shore. Rescue vessels couldn't get near the ship and there was little hope they would be freed before the winter's end.

29

**1917:** Circumstantial evidence convicted a thief who was tracked by police from Keystone to Pense, SK, through his foot prints in the snow. In his possession police found a pair of pliers matching those that had left marks at the store. Along with matched tracks in the snow, the improbable story for his presence in Pense led to his conviction.

30

**31 1982:** The editor of the *Farmers' Almanac* got a returned copy of the 200-year-old favourite Almanac, asking for a refund from a Canadian who had taken the summer off to build a house because the almanac said it would be dry. It rained all that summer!

Christmas Day

Boxing Day

New Moon ●

Winter Solstice  
19:22 EST

First Quarter ●



# WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS

- January: 2) New Brunswick
- February: 4) Captain E. J. Smith,  
RMS *Titanic*
- March: 3) rain and sun together
- April: 1) none
- May: 2) one
- June: 4) five
- July: 5) Canada
- August: 3) Indian summer
- September: 1) south coast of  
Cape Breton Island
- October: 4) fish storm
- November: 2) clearing snow and ice  
from windshields
- December: 3) ice breakup in the  
St. Lawrence Seaway