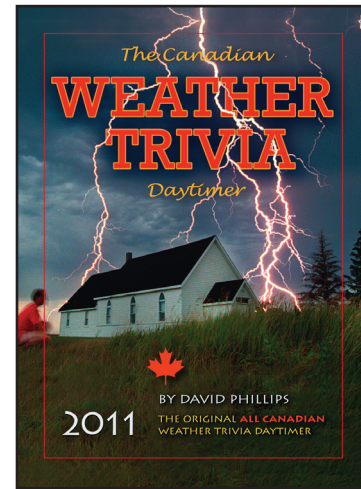
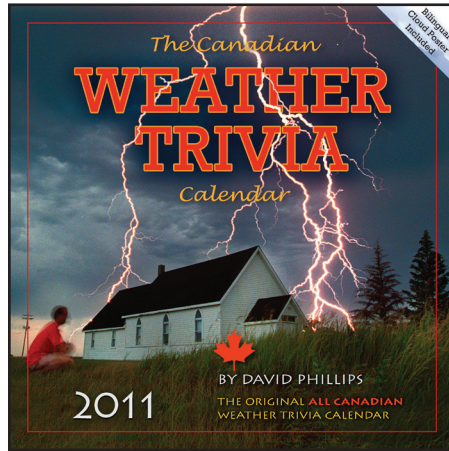




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# Press Release

## The 2011 Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar *and Weather Trivia Journal!*



Author Bio:

### David Phillips Author • Climatologist



Award-winning weather expert David Phillips has been predicting the weather for over 40 years. Hired originally as a researcher for Environment Canada, David soon became the “go-to” guy when the media called asking for weather quotes. As a spokesperson for Environment Canada’s weather service he discusses weather and climate issues on a national scale. He is also responsible for the study, promotion, and understanding of the Canadian climate.

David has collected more than 25,000 weather nuggets and factoids. They form the basis for The Canadian Weather Trivia Calendar. David is also the author of several best-selling books on the weather.

David received the Order of Canada in 2001 and has received honorary doctorates from the University of Waterloo and University of Nipissing. He currently lives in Aurora, ON with his wife.



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# Press Release

## Sample Interview Questions

1. What sparked your interest in climatology?
2. What weather fact do you find the most fascinating?
3. Did you find anything surprising while researching the 2010 calendar?
4. If global warming continues at its current rate, how will it affect weather across Canada in the future?
5. What are your weather predictions for the upcoming year?
6. You are well known throughout Canada from TV, radio and print media. How often do people come up to you asking about the weather?
7. What question (for each season) do you get asked the most frequently?
8. In your opinion, what is the most important innovation in weather prediction over the past 50 years?
9. Predicting the weather is never 100% accurate. Do you think we will ever get to the point where predictions will be 100%, or at least, very close to perfect?
10. Are there any persistent weather myths that people continue to believe in?
11. Is there a particular day of the year that you haven't been able to find any interesting weather trivia?
12. What is your favourite weather phenomenon?
13. You have been quoted as saying, "93% of Canadians wake up and get the weather forecast each and every day. Coast to coast, we are nation of chronic weather junkies." Do you think it's a good or bad thing that we are so obsessed with the weather?
14. What inspired you to write your books and the weather trivia calendar?
15. How has Canadians' perception of weather changed over the years? Has it changed at all?
16. What are your future plans? Do you plan to write another book?



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# Weather Facts British Columbia

- Approximately, 48.4% of households in Canada have air conditioning, but only 6% have it in Vancouver.
- Tough economic times and poor weather were reasons used to explain falling liquor sales in British Columbia during the first quarter of 2009.
- February 15, 2010: After the warmest January on record, Vancouver 2010 Olympic workers hauled snow from elsewhere in the province to Cypress Bowl, site of the snowboard events. Beset by rainy spring-like weather, they worked around the clock to groom the skiing venue. The next day, heavy rain and warmth washed away most of the snow in the fenced-off area for standing room at the snowboard cross site.
- Agassiz, has the warmest year-round average temperature in Canada, at 11.1°C.
- Mt. Fidelity, in Glacier National Park, is the snowiest place in Canada, year-round, with an average annual snowfall of 1,471 cm.
- Boat Bluff, is the wettest place in Canada, year-round, with an average annual rainfall of 5,029 mm.
- On December 7, 2009, workers in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley started picking frozen grapes for ice wine after an eagerly awaited temperature of below -8 °C and clear skies. At one vineyard, 20 staff and volunteers showed up and harvested 2 t of grapes from a 0.4-ha hillside. Pre-Christmas picking made for a perfect early December harvest following a spectacular summer and a great September.
- On December 23, 2008, residents outside in the midday sun in Prince George, were treated to the unusual sight of sundogs in the southern and southwestern sky. Sundogs are optical phenomena caused by ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere. The hexagonal-shaped ice crystals refract the sunlight, casting a 22-degree-angle halo from passing through the crystals.

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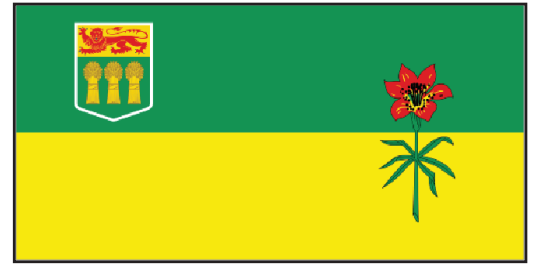


# Weather Facts Alberta

- Cows are responsible for nearly 3/4 of the world's total methane emissions. Research scientists from the University of Alberta are breeding a special type of environmentally friendly cow designed to burp less—a breakthrough that could reduce emissions of methane gas, which is 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.
- The Alberta government is working toward a plan to use social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook in order to warn people about tornadoes, influenza outbreaks, and Amber Alerts. The system will enable the province to reach more Albertans more quickly in the event of an emergency. Further, the province proposes using Internet pop-ups or other forced interruptions to get messages out about floods or tornadoes.
- Manyberries, is considered to be the sunniest place in Canada, reporting an annual average of 2,567 hours of sunlight.
- On November 17, 2009, strong westerly winds blew at least 6 transport trucks off highways south of Calgary. Farther north, a storm dumped 60 cm of snow in the mountains, clogging roads and causing the temporary closure of Highway 93 between Jasper and Saskatchewan River Crossing.
- On December 11, 2009, an intoxicated, sparsely clothed man nearly froze to death after jumping onto a slow-moving train at Wetaskiwin. The train sped up and the man could not jump off. He called 911 on his cellphone. Investigators discovered which train he was on after asking 2 different trains to blow their whistles and hearing the train's whistle through his cellphone. Officials charged him with trespassing.

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# Weather Facts Saskatchewan

*There's nothing but flat prairies all around us. You can watch your dog run away for 3 days. When we do have a blizzard, there's nothing to stop it.*

- Mary Lou Whittles, President of the Kenaston and District Chamber of Commerce

- The worst Canadian tornado occurred at Regina on June 30, 1912. Twenty-eight people were killed, hundreds injured, and property damage amounted to \$4 million (in 1912 dollars).
- The Saskatoon Airport reports the highest number of blowing dust days in Canada, with an average of 4, annually.
- Unseasonably warm, dry weather in November 2009 enabled producers around Saskatchewan to harvest 97% of the 2009 crop. More harvesting was done in the first 10 days of November than in the whole month of October. An additional blessing was warmer and drier conditions drying some of the crop. Farmers were busy with combining, drying grain, baling straw, hauling bales, cleaning corrals, and rounding up cattle.
- On December 21, 1961, more than 500 youngsters spent the night with friends when winds gusting to 110 km/h blasted through southern Saskatchewan. A master plan to billet school children near their schools in the event of an unexpected blizzard went into effect and worked to near perfection in Swift Current. Countless cars and trucks pulled into roadside service stations to sit out the storm.

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# Weather Facts Manitoba

- In November 1941, the Canadian government notified all newspapers that, in the name of national security, they must not publish any reference to weather conditions during wartime, not even blizzards, cold snaps, or unseasonable heat waves. Editors of the *Winnipeg Evening Tribune* opined: “When you confront one of those old-fashioned blizzards—the kind that blocks the roads, stalls trains and leaves motorists and transport trucks stranded all along the highways, what are we going to do if we can’t talk about it?”
- On June 22, 2007, Canada’s first F5 tornado touched down just north of the Trans-Canada Highway near Elie, about 40 km west of Winnipeg. Its top wind speed was estimated between 420 and 510 km/h. Miraculously, there were no fatalities or serious injuries.
- On January 21, 2010, two alleged members of an international organized crime syndicate were found shivering at the side of a Manitoba highway after sneaking into Canada. The fugitives were walking to Winnipeg. RCMP found the pair near the Canada-US border, crossing with relatives, including 4 children. All residents of Guatemala, they were underdressed and relieved to be picked up.
- On October 19, 1925, a woman was driving her brand new coupe in downtown Winnipeg, during a windstorm. Suddenly, a large maple tree snapped off and fell to the pavement. She applied the brakes just in time to save herself from death, or at least severe injury, but not in time to save the car. She sued the city for \$500. The question became: is the city responsible if a tree topples over and damages property?

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# Weather Facts Ontario

- According to the New England Ski Museum, some of the earliest snowmaking happened in Canada. In 1934, the Toronto Ski Club faced the problem of no snow at a big ski jump competition. Organizers used 75 t of shaved ice taken from the University of Toronto skating rink to cover the jump and hill.
- According to some long-time residents of southern Ontario, when hundreds of crows are cawing and shrieking the back of winter is effectively broken and spring is at hand. In other words: bet your dough on a crow.
- Two Toronto researchers found a significant correlation between temperature and financial returns. In general, the lower the temperature, the higher the stock returns. Sunny days were also linked to high stock prices, possibly because sunshine increases optimism.
- On cold winter days, zookeepers at the Metro Toronto Zoo bring some of the animals indoors, where they quickly get bored, and potentially dangerous. Animal handlers try to distract them with balls, puzzles, dress-ups clothes, and food, much as parents busy their bored children indoors on bad weather days. For the rhinos, when the temperature is just right (about -2°C) and there is enough snow on the ground, zookeepers sometimes build them snowmen. It only takes a couple of minutes before they are completely demolished. [Adapted from Nick Aveling, The Toronto Star.]
- The first report of a tornado in Canada occurred on July 1, 1792, in Ontario's Niagara Region. It levelled all of the houses and uprooted trees along a narrow track. The early settlers took advantage of the destruction to build a road along the trail of fallen trees, which they named Hurricane Road.
- The first reported tornado death occurred near Galt, on August 7, 1844. The tornado tore roofs from barns, destroyed fences, and clogged roads with fallen trees. The wife of a schoolmaster was crushed "one foot into the ground" and killed by a falling elm tree.
- On December 31, 1949, freezing rain brought traffic to a complete halt on Highway 27 in Ontario. Near Schomberg, 130 cars and 30 passengers in an Alliston-bound bus waited more than 6 hours in ditches and off roadways for plows and trucks to arrive. The stranded motorists heralded in the New Year by blaring horns and flicking headlights as they sat idling their cars until 1:40 a.m. when the sanders arrived.

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# Weather Facts Quebec

- On January 20, 2009, a blast of Arctic air solidified the 30-cm thickness of lake ice needed to establish the ice bridge between Hudson and Oka. About 250-300 vehicles a day use the ice bridge. The 2-km bridge is a favourite for families who want to experience the thrill of driving on ice out over the lake. The ice bridge did not open the previous year—snowfall amounts prevented the ice from getting thick enough.
- On April 1, 2009, the St. Lawrence Seaway officially opened its 50th anniversary shipping season about a week later than usual due to cold winter weather. Talk of the seaway started in 1909 but it was not until 1954 that the project was approved. The seaway cost \$470 million USD of which Canada paid 72%. Queen Elizabeth II and US President Dwight Eisenhower attended the opening in 1959.
- On October 1, 1910, a severe 15-min. cyclone struck Montreal. Winds blew at hurricane force, while rain and lightning stopped all activity including transportation. The storm killed 2 men when winds demolished the scaffolding they were on. On the wharf, winds took down 2 towers and unroofed or demolished buildings everywhere, felled shade trees, and pushed over several large electric signs.
- On December 3, 2009, the 2010 Olympic torch began the day at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, where more than 600 soldiers endured a downpour to watch the transfer of the flame from a miner's lamp to the torch. Harsh weather later forced the cancellation of the flame's crossing of the St. Lawrence River in a specialized ice canoe. Instead, it went on board a ferry to reach the south shore of Quebec City.
- On December 28, 1959, ice fishers were snug in their tiny wooden shacks near Cap-Santé in the St. Lawrence River and did not realize they were castaways until after northerly winds and a high tide combined to rip the ice pack from the shore. It took 4 rescue helicopter flights to remove 37 cod fishermen off wind-lashed ice slabs drifting aimlessly in the frigid waters.

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# Weather Facts New Brunswick

- On January 3, 2010, retreating tides transformed Petit-Rocher into an “all-you-can-eat lobster buffet.” Hundreds of people with flashlights scooped up lobsters in 19-L pails. Everybody in town was boiling lobster; the general store ran out of salt. Some fishers worried that people walking around were crushing many “cigarette-sized” lobsters without even noticing.
- On June 6, 2009, in Riverview, sunshine was plentiful, and there was barely a breeze. Suddenly, a swirl of wind stirred the air over the black asphalt parking lot near the baseball park. The wind picked up a massive amount of dust. It caused a loud slapping sound as it passed over Lake Petitcodiac. Rare in the Maritimes, dust devils form under clear sunny weather in still air.
- Yet another October storm pushed through New Brunswick on October 25, 2009, dropping more rains and ensuring one of the wettest Octobers on record. In Saint John, several streets and homes flooded after 116 mm of rain fell. One store owner said she had never seen such flooding in 32 years. October rainfall in Saint John amounted to 245.4 mm, which was just 2 mm less than the record set in 1977.
- On November 27, 2009, in Shippagan, officials tried to take the 2010 Olympic torch aboard a boat for a harbour tour, but they had to cancel the trip because of high winds that caused the flame to flicker perilously as it was carried across New Brunswick’s north shore. Yet, the cold and rain did not dampen the spirits of supporters who lined the normally quiet, 2-lane highway between Miramichi and Fredericton.
- On December 22, 2008, staff at the Magnetic Hill Zoo in Moncton mourned the accidental deaths of 2 adult baboons. The pair of olive baboons, named Ernie and Lisa, died from exposure to bitterly cold temperatures after being mistakenly locked out of their indoor cage at night. Both animals succumbed to hypothermia. Wind chill temperatures dipped to -25 °C during their time outside.

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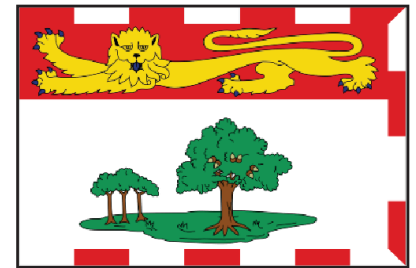


# Weather Facts Nova Scotia

- The Nova Scotia government is so concerned about weather tourists—those who enter danger areas during severe weather—that they are considering fining weather thrill-seekers who venture too close to shorelines where rogue waves could strike them. At a time when extreme weather is expected to become more common, the rise of so-called weather tourists is a dangerous and incomprehensible trend, especially when children are involved. Rescuers are also put at danger when rescuing weather tourists.
- On February 28, 1952, eighteen United States airmen parachuted to safety in a blizzard outside Sydney, as their transport plane hurdled into the woods at the edge of the city. The men leaped safely after 20 attempts to land at the reserve airport. Several narrowly missed high tension wires. Others dangled from trees for a time, bashed by 80-km/h winds. Shoulder-deep snow on the ground helped cushion their fall.
- After the ferry/supply boat S.S. Kyle became stuck in the roughest stretch of ice ever to pile up off Sydney Harbour, on May 6, 1923, several crew members and passengers decided to walk the 22 km to shore. It was a rough trip, as they scrambled around huge ice ramparts. A few hundred metres from shore the ice ended at open water. Luckily, townspeople had launched dories to come collect them.
- On December 8, 2009, a 7-year-old autistic boy found in the woods near his home in Cape Breton, died in a Halifax hospital from acute hypothermia. He had been lost north of Sydney for 48 hours. Nasty weather—24 cm of snow, blizzard conditions, and -10 wind chills—hampered the search.
- Dubbed the “Shopper Stopper Storm” by American retailers worried about losing holiday sales, the nasty weather system dropped record amounts of snow on the eastern seaboard of the United States on December 20, 2009. Its tail end then began hitting Nova Scotia. At Halifax’s Stanfield International Airport 26 flights were cancelled or delayed. Nova Scotian retailers also felt the blow as shoppers stayed home.

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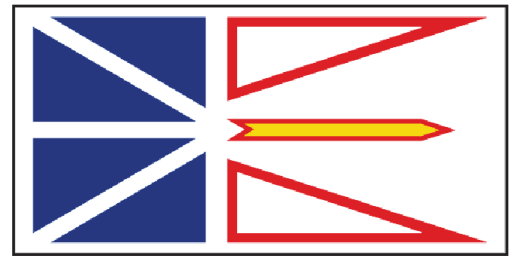


# Weather Facts Prince Edward Island

- Roads in West Prince, were blocked for a week following a storm in February of 1982. The weather turned cold and the wind blew, creating drifts that could support the weight of large vehicles. With blocked roads, farmers had to find ways of storing their ever-expanding milk supplies. Some resorted to bagging milk in garbage bags. The weather remained cold throughout the ordeal, saving the milk from spoilage.
- On October 11, 1906, wildfires scourged Summerside destroying about 50 buildings, including the courthouse, jail, 3 churches, hotels, and lumberyards. Fanned by a southeast gale, flames that started in the railway freight shed spread rapidly, cutting a fire line through the wooden buildings. The town narrowly escaped total conflagration after there was a fortunate change in wind direction.
- On December 12, 1843, lightning struck a farmer at Speke. The “electric fluid” entered through his window, knocking out several of his teeth and singeing all the hair off his head. It blackened the walls of the room and perforated some clothes before shattering a chest of drawers. The lightning then descended to the lower part of the building, tearing up the floor of the milk house.

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# Weather Facts Newfoundland and Labrador

*I'm staying [in Newfoundland] because there's no place I'd rather be. Besides, I prefer a climate where I have to put on clothes to be comfortable versus the other way around.*

—Rolly Card, St. John's

- As many as 4,000 people drowned in hurricane-force winds when hundreds of ships sank off the coast of Newfoundland in September 1775. Fishers pulled out 20 to 30 bodies in every netting following the storm. British records indicate that on average only about 1,000 people died at sea each year in the late 1770s. Little is known about the storm because there were no newspapers in Newfoundland at the time.
- On February 17, 2010, the mild winter in Labrador, with unfrozen rivers and lakes and no sea ice, forced organizers to scrap this year's 6-day Cain's Quest race. Founded in 2006, it sends snowmobile riders bushwhacking through untracked land from Labrador City to Nain and back. In other years, teams had to turn around and go back to the checkpoint because it was too cold.
- St. Lawrence has more foggy days than anywhere else in Canada, with an annual average of 132.
- Bonavista is considered the windiest place in Canada, with an annual average wind speed of 31.7 km/h.
- On October 5, 2009, road crews in St. John's painted the centre lines on the road with yellow paint and then it rained. The paint oozed all over the surface for about a kilometre, smearing the pavement and creating big yellow puddles. A city "ice control" truck came to cover up the yellow road slick with sand, as cars whizzed along, becoming spattered with paint as they sprayed it into the air.
- In Newfoundlandese, a "rasher of wind" translates to a "very thin person."

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## Weather Facts

# Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut

- Alone on the Arctic Ocean, a stranded Inuk hunter was rescued on January 22, 2010, almost 3 days after the ice floe he was snowmobiling across broke away and began floating across the Northwest Passage. Rescue by plane and helicopter had been repeatedly hindered by high winds, snow, and mechanical problems. Eventually, rescue planes dropped a tent, a stove, food, and extra satellite phone batteries.
- On January 28, 2008: Residents of Yellowknife, NT, were left in the cold (-40 °C) and the dark when a power outage hit the entire city. The enduring cold filled emergency shelters to capacity. In Yukon, ice fog obscured any hope of seeing more than a city block away. And every bump reminded you how taxed your shocks and tires are when it gets that cold. Locals feel cold weather always arrives around Robbie Burns Day.
- February 5, 2010: This date often marks the dead of winter in Iqaluit, NU, with temperatures lows of -43.3°C. The media were surprised when Canada invited world financial ministers and bankers to Iqaluit for two-day meetings. Surprisingly, the weather was more like an Arctic heat wave with temperatures of -13.5°C. Financial ministers and bankers went dog sledding and ate seal meat at a communal feast.
- On October 29, 1902, one of the most celebrated mail carriers in Yukon came close to losing his life in an ice jam that blocked the Yukon River about 16 km below Fortymile, YT. By the time the mail carrier noticed the jam, it was too late to steer his heavy boat toward the riverbank. The loss of the mail, however, distressed him far more than his own narrow escape.
- A teenaged Inuit boy and his uncle from Coral Harbour, NU, suffered hypothermia after their snowmobile broke down while hunting on November 9, 2009. Becoming separated from his uncle, the teen was set adrift on a large chunk of shifting ice. He battled hypothermia at frigid temperatures (-21°C, -32 °C wind chill). He also had to shoot a polar bear. When rescued, he was soaking wet and was so exhausted he could not talk.



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Weather Trivia  
Sample

A) What is the most popular weather term used in naming geographical areas, features, and places in Canada?

- 1) sun
- 2) rain
- 3) snow
- 4) wind
- 5) cloud

B) During which season do fingernails grow the fastest?

- 1) summer
- 2) fall
- 3) winter
- 4) spring
- 5) it makes no difference

C) Which city has the greatest amount of spring snowfall (March, April, and May)?

- 1) Edmonton, AB
- 2) Moncton, NB
- 3) St. John's, NL
- 4) Quebec City, QC
- 5) Charlottetown, PEI

D) Which activity accounts for more deaths and injuries from lightning in Canada?

- 1) golfing
- 2) camping and hiking
- 3) picnicking
- 4) boating
- 5) outdoor construction work

Answer key:

A)3 B)1 C)2 D)2



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