

MARITIME CANADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

MARCH 2021

March – A Stormier Month but Above Normal Temperatures Continue for Most

Temperatures were near to above normal for most of the Maritimes with the largest anomalies of +2-3 °C occurring in Cape Breton. Several significant storms crossed the region bringing a mixed bag of precipitation, strong winds, and a significant thunderstorm event. Despite the storms, overall precipitation totals were mostly below normal. The only exception was Cape Breton where amounts were up to 175% of the average. Snowfall amounts were below to well-below average. Parts of southern NB, and western and northern NS, recorded less than 10 cm of snow. The heaviest snowfalls were in northern NB and eastern NS where amounts of 50-60 cm were recorded. By the end of the month, little or no snowpack remained in most of NS, PEI, and southern NB.

The Warmest (°C)

New Brunswick St Stephen	20.8
Nova Scotia Kejimikujik	19.1
Prince Edward Island Stanhope	16.8

The Coldest (°C)

New Brunswick Edmundston	-26.8
Nova Scotia Collegrave	-22.7
Prince Edward Island Maple Plains	-19.2

The Wettest (Total mm)

New Brunswick Bas Caraquet	74.8 mm
Nova Scotia Northeast Margaree	166.1 mm
Prince Edward Island Charlottetown A	81.6 mm

The Capital Stats

Station Name	Mean Temperature (°C)			Extremes	
	Monthly Mean	Normal Mean	Diff from Normal	Max (Date)	Min (Date)
Charlottetown Airport	-1.3	-3.1	1.8	15.7 (31)	-15.1 (2)
Halifax Shearwater A.	1.1	-0.7	1.8	17.1 (22)	-13.7 (2)
Fredericton	-1.7	-2.2	0.5	18.4 (22)	-12.6 (2)

Station Name	Total Precipitation			Snowfall	
	Monthly Total	Normal Total	Percent Normal	Total (cm)	Max SOG (Date)
Charlottetown Airport	81.6	86.3	95	39.2	25 (23)
Halifax Stanfield Airport	111.6	120.1	92	34.4	23 (23)
Fredericton	62.7	90.1	70	10.7	33 (10)

Daily Temperature Records

Two periods of mild weather set numerous daily maximum records across the Maritimes. The first (March 11-12) set 5 in NB, 9 in NS, and 3 in PEI. The highest recorded temperature was 17.2 in Ingonish Beach, NS. The period of March 21 -26 brought a prolonged mild spell bringing an early end to the skiing season. NB recorded 19 new daily highs, NS set 17 records, and PEI set 6. Kouchibouguac, NB at 18.6 (25th), Kejimikujik, NS at 18.7 (24th), and St. Peters, PEI at 16.5 (25th) were the provincial highs for the period. Two new low records were set at Brier Island, NS: -13.6 (2nd) and -9.7 (17th).

Other Significant Events (information provided by Climate Services, ECCC)

Mar 1-2: A deep low-pressure system moved through southern New Brunswick. It brought strong winds as well as significant snowfall to all 3 provinces with the greatest amounts in the 20 to 40 cm range across central/northern NB and Cape Breton. Wind gusts reached the 70 to 90 km/h range across the region with the strongest gust reported at 108 km/h in northeastern NB. Along with [power outages in NB, cancellations and travel disruptions](#), there were two fatalities related to the storm in northeastern NB.

Mar 15-16: A large low-pressure system east of the region brought a cold northerly flow over the western Gulf of St Lawrence which set-up snow squalls. These snow squalls caused poor visibility and hazardous driving conditions. Reported snowfall totals associated with these squalls were in the 10 to 15 cm range across hazardous driving conditions easter hazardous driving conditions n PEI and portions of [Cape Breton](#).

Mar 19: A low pressure system passing by to the south of the region brought significant snowfall to NS and eastern PEI. The precipitation started as rain but quickly changed to snow early on the 19th . The highest snowfall totals were in the 20 to just over 35 cm range primarily over central and eastern NS. Many [businesses were closed](#) in anticipation of the storm. Eastern PEI reported some closures and [poor road conditions](#).

Mar 26-27: A strong low pressure system tracked eastward across the southern Maritimes. This system brought some snowfall to northern portions of the region with heavy rain and thunderstorms across the south. The heaviest snowfall affected northern/central NB, PEI and Cape Breton with amounts in the 10 to 20 cm range. The heaviest rainfall affected primarily southeastern portions of the region with the highest amounts in the 30 to 50 mm range. The system was most remarkable for the associated lightning activity primarily across the southern part of the region with more than 16,000 lightning strikes. [One fatality was reported](#) in NS as well as a number of fires related to the lightning activity. High winds and lightning caused power outages across part of the Maritimes. NS Power reported up to 9400 customers affected and NB Power reported up to 4000. Some localized flooding in southern NB resulted in road damage and rescue efforts for stranded drivers.

Compiled by Peter J. Lewis with data and information provided by Client Service Operations Atlantic, Meteorological Service of Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada

Other CMOS News

Of Interest: OFI Facilities in Memorial University's new Core Science Facility. Construction of a new [Core Science Facility \(CSF\) at Memorial University of Newfoundland \(MUN\)](#) is well underway, and will provide modern spaces for researchers and administrative staff in the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at MUN. You can [read more](#) about OFI's contribution to this new facility and take a [virtual tour of the space](#).

Upcoming Event: Educators' Day at CMOS Victoria 2021, Friday June 4, 12:00PM to 5:00PM ET. All activities will be conducted online. The intended audience is K-12 school teachers and other educators of grade school children. Some sessions will be suitable for classroom audiences. For more information, click [here](#), and to register, click [here](#).

Upcoming Seminar: April 29, 1:00pm ADT, CMOS Ottawa Centre virtual luncheon. Laura Twidle is Managing Director of Catastrophe Indices and Quantification Inc. (CatIQ) and will be discussing *The Impacts of Extreme Events on the Canadian Insurance Industry*. Abstract, biography and a link to register can be found [here](#).

Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) | Halifax Chapter

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