CMOS
Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society

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MARITIME CANADA CLIMATE SUMMARY
March 2022

Mild March Continues Above Normal Temperature Trend Across the Maritimes

Temperatures from Central NB and southward were again 1-2 C above normal for the month and close to normal for northern NB. The prevailing storm track across Central NB brought above normal snowfall amounts to the north. South of the track the snow was interspersed with freezing rain while rain was more prevalent in the southern Maritimes. The exception was Cape Breton where frequent onshore NW winds brought above normal snowfall to the Highlands. Total snowfall amounts were generally less than 50 cm in the south of the region and less than 20 cm in parts of SW NS and SW NB. Ice coverage in the Gulf of St Lawrence reached its peak for the 2021-22 season with 35% coverage during the 1st week but declined rapidly thereafter to just 7% by the end of the month – one week ahead of the climatological norm. Sea surface temperatures also continued above normal. The positive anomaly in the Bay of Fundy continued in the 3-5 C range.

The Warmest (°C)

New Brunswick	
St Stephen	18.7
Nova Scotia	
Shelburne	20.1
Prince Edward Island	
St Peters	12.9

The Coldest (°C)

New Brunswick	
Edmundston	-31.0
Nova Scotia	
Debert	-26.8
Prince Edward Island	
Maple Plains	- 23.9

The Wettest (Total mm)

New Brunswick	
Fundy Park	158.2
Nova Scotia	
Shelburne	188.2
Prince Edward Island	
Stanhope	117.7

The Capital Stats

	Mean Temperature (°C)			Extremes	
Station Name	Monthly Mean	Normal Mean	Diff from Normal	Max (Date)	Min (Date)
Charlottetown	-1.3	-3.1	1.8	11.2 (12)	-17.9 (04)
Halifax	1.4	--0.7	2.1	16.4 (18)	-14.9 (01)
Fredericton	-1.1	-2.4	1.3	16.4 (18)	-22.1 (04)

	Total Precipitation			Snowfall	
Station Name	Monthly Total (mm)	Normal Total (mm)	Percent Normal	Total (cm)	SOG End of Month
Charlottetown	97.9	86.3	114	31.8	01
Halifax	147.2	125.2	118	34	0
Fredericton	111.0	90.1	123	32.5	Trace

Daily Temperature Records

With the exception of NS, new daily record highs were relatively sparse compared to February. NB had just 5 and PEI had 4 new records. The lack of snow cover in parts of NS may account for some of the 38 new records set in NS. On the 18th Shelburne recorded a new high of 20.1 with new records in the high teens in other locations in the SW. The 5 NB record highs were also recorded on the 18th. New records lows were rare - just 4 in NS and 1 each in NB and PEI.

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

March 6-7: Two low pressure systems moved across New Brunswick on two consecutive days on similar tracks. Mainly snow fell in northern New Brunswick while southern areas of the Maritimes saw a transition to rain with a period of freezing rain for eastern NB and parts of PEI from the first low. Snowfall amounts of up to 30 cm fell in northern NB over the 2 days. Total precipitation varied greatly with highest amounts in eastern areas of the Maritimes of 30-40 mm. Some roads in northern NB were not recommended for travel due to snowfall.

March 12-14: A major winter storm pushed across the region with widespread strong winds, rain, and snow (mainly in northern NB). Cartwright, NL set a new record low pressure at this location in the storm. It reported a mean sea level (MSL) pressure of 945.1 mb on March 13, 2022, breaking its previous lowest MSL pressure record of 950.7 mb, set on December 2, 1972. Warm air south of the low set daily temperature records in NS and PEI. Precipitation was heaviest in NS with reports of up to 82 mm in Cape Breton while most of the rest of NS and NB saw amounts of up to 45mm. Saint-Quentin reported 22cm of snow north of the lows. Less precipitation overall fell in PEI. Strong winds gusted to 80-98 km/h in NB and PEI while NS saw some coastal gusts of 100-120km/h. ECCC Storm summaries: NS NB PEI.

The Weather Network - Strongest low on Earth last weekend was a record-breaker in Canada (Mar 14,2022)

March 19: Another low crossed southern NB on a similar path to the other lows this month. Similar precipitation occurred with snow in the north, a mix of snow changing to freezing rain then changing to rain in central NB and parts of PEI, and rain for NS. Power outages from the heavy wet snow and freezing rain left some New Brunswickers out of power. Snowfall amounts were generally under 10 cm. Precipitation ranged from 10-15mm in PEI to 20-35mm in NB and NS. Daily temperature records were set across NS and NB ahead of the low on the 18th of March.

March 24-25: Continuing the trend of lows crossing NB, another system brought similar precipitation patterns and types as the previous lows in March. Up to 10 cm of snow in northern NB with rainfall elsewhere. A period of freezing rain occurred during changeover. Total precipitation amounts were highest in NS and PEI with 30-50 mm falling. Amounts in NB were lower with up to 25 mm.

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

Upcoming Seminar: This Ottawa Centre virtual luncheon with speaker Dr. Ellen Field from Lakehead University discussing "the role of education in climate action: research-informed engagement". The meeting will be **on Thursday April 21st starting at 1:00PM ADT**. All information, including **the link to register** may be found at the usual place:

New Scholarship Opportunity: CMOS-Halifax is funding a scholarship to be awarded to a grade 12 Student of African Descent or Indigenous Student who plans on enrolling in a university program relevant to ocean and climate science. The scholarship is affiliated with and will be awarded by Imhotep's Legacy Academy at Dalhousie University (https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/imhotep.html). Applications are due **April 30th, 2022**. For more information, please email shannon.nudds@dfo-mpo.gc.ca OR imhotep@dal.ca .