



MARITIME CANADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

March 2023

March Brings Near Normal Temperatures but Low on Precipitation

March lacked both extremes of temperature and major storm events. Temperatures were near to slightly above normal with the largest positive anomalies in northern and southwest NB, southwest NS and eastern Cape Breton where the monthly means were 1 to 2 C above normal. Precipitation was near to below normal across most of the region except for parts of central NS and northern Cape Breton where it was much below normal. The Cape Breton Highlands saw the highest snowfall amounts with 100 to 200+ cm. Relative to the normal, more precipitation fell in the form of snow across most of the region with amounts ranging from 50 to 75% of normal in southwest NB and northern NS to 125 to 175% in PEI, Cape Breton, east central NB, southwest and eastern NS. Sea ice coverage in the Gulf of St Lawrence remained substantially below normal. At the end of the month just 3% coverage remained compared to the norm of 22%. Coastal sea-surface temperatures continued to be well-above normal.

The Warmest (°C)

New Brunswick	
St Stephen	9.9
Nova Scotia	
Shelburne	11.5
Prince Edward Island	
Maple Plains	7.5

The Coldest (°C)

New Brunswick	
Edmundston	-25.4
Nova Scotia	
Collegeville	-20.3
Prince Edward Island	
Maple Plains	-18.6

The Wettest (Total mm)

New Brunswick	
Grand Manan	104.1
Nova Scotia	
Ingonish Beach	137.6
Prince Edward Island	
Stanhope	65.8

The Capital Stats

Station Name	Mean Temperature (°C)			Extremes	
	Monthly Mean	Normal Mean	Diff from Normal	Max (Date)	Min (Date)
Charlottetown	-2.0	-3.1	1.1	5.4 (21)	-12.6 (4)
Halifax	-0.7	-1.3	0.6	9.2(21)	-11.70(4)
Fredericton	-1.2	-2.4	1.2	8.3(21)	-18.6 (4)

Station Name	Total Precipitation			Snowfall	
	Monthly Total (mm)	Normal Total (mm)	Percent Normal	Total (cm)	SOG End of Month
Charlottetown	71.1	86.3	82	19.0	7.0
Halifax	60.2	120.1	50	5.0	1.0
Fredericton	58.7	90.1	65	60.2	34.5

Daily Temperature Records

Given the benign nature of the month, not surprisingly, there were very few new daily temperature records. In NS there were just 4 new maximum records all set on 19th along the Eastern shore with the highest only 9.7 C at Sheet Harbour. In NB there were only 3 new daily highs all set on the 9th but again just in the single digits in the northeastern corner. PEI had no new daily maximums and there were no new daily minimums set across the region.

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

Mar 2-3. A rapidly developing low-pressure system brought snow to southern regions of the Maritimes. General snowfall totals across southern NB and most of mainland NS were 15-25 cm with up to 31 cm reported in Dartmouth, NS.

[Heavy snow, high winds cause delays, cancellations across N.S. | CBC News](#)

[Some schools closed after heavy March snowfall across southern N.B. | CBC News](#)

Mar 14-16 A low-pressure system that moved along the US eastern seaboard and slowly across the region brought heavy snow, rain and strong winds. Snowfall amounts of 10-20 cm were measured over most of NB (except the northwest), PEI, and northern NS and Cape Breton. Bas-Caraquet, NB amassed 30 cm. Rainfall was mostly confined to the Atlantic coast of NS and coastal Cape Breton where generally 15- 30 mm fell in addition to some initial snowfall. Strong east to northeast wind gusts affected mainly southern coastal areas with gusts from 70-80 km/h with Lunenburg, NS reporting a gust to 102 km/h.

[Schools in western P.E.I. delayed for snow clearing | CBC News](#)

[Some schools closed, highway visibility poor in northeastern N.B. | CBC News](#)
[Storm continues to dump rain, snow across much of N.S. | CBC News](#)

[Mid-March nor'easter brings messy mix of rain, snow to the Maritimes | CTV News](#)

Mar 23-24. Moderate precipitation in the form of rain and snow, blanketed the region. Rainfall amounts of 10-25 mm fell over most of mainland NS and extreme southern NB and 10-20 cm of snow fell over the rest of NB, PEI, and Cape Breton.

Mar 26-27 More snow fell over most of NB, PEI, northern NS, and Cape Breton as another system crossed the region. Amounts ranged from 5-15 cm except 20-25 cm across northern areas of NB.

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

CONGRESS 2023: If you haven't registered for CMOS's 57th Annual Congress, it's not too late! We have a very exciting program planned around the theme, *Connecting on the Rock: From the Marine Environment to the Blue Economy*. See the [Congress website](#) for more details.

Upcoming Event:

What: Fire Weather

When: Thursday June 29, 2023

Where: Webinar (link to follow)

Who: Hosted by CoCoRaHS, Tim Brown, Director Western Regional Climate Center Desert Research Institute

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