



MARITIME CANADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

January 2024

Another Month of Above Normal Temperatures Delays Winter for Most of the Region

Storm tracks from the southwest early in the month brought rain rather than snow to most of NS, southern NB and PEI delaying opportunities for outdoor winter activities. Monthly mean temperatures were more than 2 C above normal across most of NS and PEI and above 3 C for most of NB. Despite the passage of several storm systems from the southwest, overall precipitation totals were below normal – this was especially marked in Cape Breton where the lack of cold NW winds limited snowsquall activity. Except for northern NB, snowfall was generally well-below normal. The first significant snowfall for NS finally arrived at the end month with a 15-20 cm covering from a storm passing to the south. Abnormally low ice coverage in the Gulf at the start of the month continued with a mere 2.6% coverage at the end of the month, compared to a normal of 21.2%. Coastal sea-surface temperatures continued to be near to above average.

The Warmest (°C)

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| New Brunswick | |
| St Stephen | 8.9 |
| Nova Scotia | |
| Halifax Dockyard | 11.6 |
| Prince Edward Island | |
| Stanhope | 6.9 |

The Coldest (°C)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| New Brunswick | |
| Edmundston | -19.6 |
| Nova Scotia | |
| Debert | -13.8 |
| Prince Edward Island | |
| Maple Plains | -12.1 |

The Wettest (Total mm)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| New Brunswick | |
| Mechanic Settlement | 207.2 |
| Nova Scotia | |
| Sydney | 293.4 |
| Prince Edward Island | |
| East Point | 85.4 |

The Capital Stats

| Station Name | Mean Temperature (°C) | | | Extremes | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| | Monthly Mean | Normal Mean | Diff from Normal | Max (Date) | Min (Date) |
| Charlottetown | -4.8 | -7.7 | +2.9 | 6.4 (17) | -14.0 (26) |
| Halifax | -4.0 | -5.9 | +1.9 | 10.1 (16) | -14.0 (24) |
| Fredericton | -6.5 | -9.4 | +2.9 | 7.9 (13) | -23.5 (31) |

| Station Name | Total Precipitation | | | Snowfall | |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| | Monthly Total (mm) | Normal Total (mm) | Percent Normal | Total (cm) | SOG End of Month |
| Charlottetown | 63.7 | 101.1 | 63 | 40.8 | 12 |
| Halifax | 138.7 | 140.3 | 97 | 47.6 | 18 |
| Fredericton | 154.9 | 91.8 | 169 | 34.3 | 21 |

Daily Temperature Records

Although mean temperatures were well-above normal for most of the region, January 2024 could not compete with January 2023 when +ve temperature anomalies were over 5 C above normal and many daily records were set. New record high maximums and overnight minimums were sparse this year with no new records in NB, just one new high in PEI. NS, however set 3 new daily highs all close to +10 C and 6 new high overnight minimums all above 0 C.

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

Jan 6-7 - Snow coated southwestern NS with 10-20 cm as a system skirted south of the region. Snow was dry and fluffy with as much as 25 cm reported in the Port Maitland area of NS.

Jan 10 – A fast-moving and intense system brought snow, rain, wind, and elevated water levels. The heaviest snow was mostly confined to NB where 10-25 cm fell while the heaviest rain was confined to NS where 25-40 mm fell. Strong southeasterly winds of 90-100 km/h affected all three provinces with a maximum Suêtes wind gust to 174 km/h at Grand Etang, NS. Coastal flooding occurred in southwest NS and northeast and southwest NB and caused the temporary closures of some roads due to flooding and debris. Approximately 20,000 power outages occurred along with numerous school closures. [Dozens of schools closed as winter storm hits N.S. | CBC News](#)

Jan 13 -A similar winter storm followed the one on the 10th, and brought another round of snow, rain, wind, and elevated water levels. Near 10 cm of snow was reported at a few sites in northern NB while southern NB and the Atlantic coast of NS and Cape Breton saw 20-30 mm of rain. Easterly wind gusts of 80-90 km/h were reported over the Acadian Peninsula and the Bay of Fundy in NB, across PEI, and across most of coastal NS but only minor power outages were reported. A peak Suêtes wind gust of 150 km/h was reported in the Cape Breton highlands. Similar coastal flooding occurred again just three days after the first event in southwest NS and northeast and southwest NB and caused the temporary closures of some roads due to flooding and debris. The event was also associated with some of the highest astronomical tides of the year. [Power restored after storm blows through Maritimes | CBC News](#)

Jan 16-17 – The third storm in a week, but the weakest of the three, passed through the region bringing mostly snow to northern areas and rain to southern areas. Generally, 10-20 cm blanketed most of central and northern NB with up to 25 cm locally over higher terrain. After some accumulating snow, southern NB, PEI, and NS saw rainfall amounts in the order of 20-30 mm with up to 50 mm reported at three sites along the Atlantic coast of NS and Cape Breton. Strong winds were confined to the local effects of the highlands of Cape Breton where a southeast wind gust to 142 km/h was recorded.

Jan 28-29 - The month ended very similar to how it began with snow affecting NS as a system passed to the south. Most of mainland NS and Cape Breton amassed 15-20 cm of snow. Snow was heavy and wet with a maximum amount of 25 cm reported in the Spanish Ship Bay area of NS. [Schools cancelled as nor'easter blows through Nova Scotia | CBC News](#)

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

CMOS-Halifax New Social and Networking Evening: Starting **Monday March 4th**, the CMOS community will gather on the first Monday of every month at the [Oxford Taproom](#). Please join us for a beverage and take the opportunity to catch up with existing colleague, meet new ones, and network with the community. **Come at 7PM**, or whenever you feel like it, and stay until... whenever you feel like it. Looking forward to connecting with you all on a more regular basis.

Abstract Submission Deadline is approaching: Congress 2024 is taking place virtually, June 3 – June 6. The theme of this year's congress is Extreme Events in a Changing Climate. Abstract submission deadline has been extended until Feb 29th. [Click here to submit!](#)

Upcoming event: Careers in Meteorology and Oceanography, Virtual Panel Discussion.

Host: CMOS Students Committee

When: March 14 1-2PM ET

Click [HERE FOR MORE INFO](#), and [HERE TO REGISTER](#).

Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) | Halifax Chapter

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