



MARITIME CANADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

March 2024

A Near Record Warm and Wet Month for Several Stations Across the Region

Warm temperatures and stormy conditions resulted in monthly +ve temperature anomalies and precipitation amounts among the top 5 on record at several stations. The +ve anomalies ran between +3-4C at almost all stations. Summerside PEI saw its warmest March since records began in 1898. At Greenwood and Shearwater NS, it was the second warmest on record. With the exception of Cape Breton, precipitation amounts across the region were well-above normal with some stations around the Bay of Fundy reporting near 250% of the normal amounts. While northern NB saw some of the highest snowfalls of the season, the remainder of the region saw significantly less snow than normal with very little, if any, snow remaining on the ground at the end of the month leaving winter sports enthusiasts disappointed again. Ice cover in the Gulf at the end of the month was the lowest since records began in 1968-69. Sea-surface temperatures remained close to normal around all coastal waters.

The Warmest (°C)

New Brunswick	
Sussex	13.7
Nova Scotia	
Ingonish Beach	19.8
Prince Edward Island	
St Peters	17.3

The Coldest (°C)

New Brunswick	
Mactaquac Prov. Park	-24.0
Nova Scotia	
North Mountain	-15.3
Prince Edward Island	
Harrington	-14.3

The Wettest (Total mm)

New Brunswick	
Mechanic Settlement	361.0
Nova Scotia	
Kejimikujik	291.0
Prince Edward Island	
Summerside	188.4

The Capital Stats

Station Name	Mean Temperature (°C)			Extremes	
	Monthly Mean	Normal Mean	Diff from Normal	Max (Date)	Min (Date)
Charlottetown	+1.2	-3.1	+4.2	16.6 (29)	-14.2 (1)
Halifax	+1.9	-1.3	+3.2	14.4 (28)	-13.9 (1)
Fredericton	+0.5	--2.2	+2.7	12.3 (6)	-16.4 (1)

Station Name	Total Precipitation			Snowfall	
	Monthly Total (mm)	Normal Total (mm)	Percent Normal	Total (cm)	SOG End of Month
Charlottetown	171.6	86.3	199	9.9	0
Halifax	234.2	120.1	195	7.4	0
Fredericton	237.2	90.1	263	NA	0

Daily Temperature Records

Not surprisingly, given the high monthly mean temperatures, many new daily maximum and high overnight minimum records were set -most of them within 2 warm periods 3-6th and 28-29th. NB set 33 new daytime highs and 34 new high minimums. In NS the numbers were 22 and 64 and in PEI 5 and 6 respectively. Across the Region, most of the new daily highs were above 10C and all the new high minimums were above 0C. In NS 3 of the high minimums were above 10C! There were no new record low minimum records anywhere in the Region.

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

Mar 2-3 - A system passed south of the region and brought rain to southwestern NB and southwestern NS. Rainfall amounts ranged from 20-30 mm but as much as 60 mm fell locally in the Port Maitland area of NS.

Mar 6-8 - Mixed precipitation in the form of snow, ice pellets, freezing rain and rain invaded the region. Snow affected central and eastern NB and western PEI with 15-30 cm. Up to seven hours of freezing rain were reported in southeastern NB, PEI, and northern and eastern NS and caused isolated power outages. Rain was confined to southwestern NB and most of NS with 30-60 mm and as much as 88 mm in southwestern NS.

[Public schools cancelled as storm bears down on P.E.I. | CBC News](#)

Mar 10-12 - A winter storm brought snow, freezing rain, rain, and wind. Snow affected northern NB with 15-30 cm and up to 38 cm over western Bay of Chaleur. Several hours of freezing rain coated trees and power lines in northeastern NB, but only caused minor power outages. The heaviest rain fell over southwestern NB and most of NS with 30-60 mm and a localized report of 91 mm was reported in the Annapolis Valley of NS. Easterly wind gusts of 80-100 km/h (except a Les Sûêtes wind gust to 126 km/h) blasted NS with gusts of 70-80km/h across coastal NB and PEI.

Mar 20-21 - The first day of spring was blanketed by heavy, wet snow in much of northwestern NB as a low-pressure system crossed the area. 10-20 cm of snow was reported in the region and closed schools.

Mar 23-24 - A moisture-laden winter storm brought significant snowfall, freezing rain, wind, and rainfall to NB, western PEI, and western NS. Snowfall was most abundant in northern and central NB with 15-47 cm. Several hours of freezing rain in southern NB caused thousands to lose power. Winds gusted to 80-110 km/h over southwestern NB and NS and caused further power outages. Rainfall of 25-50 mm accumulated across southeastern NB, western PEI, and western NS, with 60-80 mm across southwestern NB.

[Storm washes out roads, leaves thousands in New Brunswick without power | CBC News](#)

[Thousands without power in Nova Scotia after heavy winds and rainfall | CBC News](#)

Mar 28-30 - Three days of nearly continuous precipitation across NB, western PEI, and western NS resulted in impressive total amounts of 50-80 mm and locally over 100 mm in both NB and NS. Most precipitation fell in the form of rain but several hours of freezing rain fell in northern NB and snow fell over western areas of NB where 10-15 cm was reported. River water levels in the region were elevated from the excess moisture and also caused the East Branch/Loch Alva dam to breach in the Musquash area of NB. Localized flooding was reported in a few southern communities in NB and caused numerous road closures throughout the province.

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

Student and Early Career Member Opportunity! Arctic-Subarctic Ocean Fluxes (ASOF) Meeting: April 30 – May 20, Halifax

Student and early career CMOS members are eligible to participate in the upcoming Arctic-Subarctic Ocean Fluxes (ASOF) Meeting: April 30-May 2 at Dalhousie University (virtual or in-person).

The Arctic-Subarctic Ocean Fluxes group is an international program on the oceanography of the Arctic and Subarctic seas and their role in climate. Check out the [ASOF group website](#) to learn more. The international ASOF group meets annually to report on findings and establish collaborative opportunities. This year's meeting will take place in Halifax in collaboration with the Ocean Frontier Institute. The CMOS Halifax Centre is a sponsor of the event.

CMOS-supported participant spots will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. Please e-mail Clark.Richards@dfo-mpo.gc.ca to express interest in participating. The e-mail should include your (1) full name, (2) graduation date (from highest degree, or anticipated date if a student), and (3) if would like to attend virtually or in-person.

CMOS-Halifax Social: Thursday May 16th, 7PM, Oxford Taproom. Please join us for a casual beverage and time to connect/network with your local CMOS community.

Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) | Halifax Chapter

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