

## University of Waterloo Weather Station Monthly Summary - February 2006

The month of February certainly felt a lot colder after the extremely warm January we had, but historically February was actually a little bit warmer than average. The average daily high was  $-1.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  compared to the  $-1.9\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  we would expect, this is close enough to the average to classify it as an average month for temperature. However, looking at the actual temperatures during the month it always seemed that we were either well above or well below average; warm in the beginning, followed by a cold snap, then warm temperatures associated with the major rain event, and ending with another set of cold days.

From the graph of temperature, the flash freeze we experienced on the 17th can clearly be seen. The temperature was  $7.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 3:15 am, dropped to  $1.6\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 4:15 am,  $-2.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 5:15 am, and then to  $-6.1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  by 6:15 am, just in time to freeze all the pooled meltwater and make things treacherous for people getting to work.

Two major precipitation events during February helped us get to almost twice the average amount of precipitation during the month. The first event on the fourth (28.1 mm) was mainly a snow event (albeit very wet snow mixed with some rain) while the second one on the 16th (38.5 mm) was mostly rain. For the month, the precipitation was split evenly between snow and rain, which is what we would expect in an average year.

The total precipitation for February was 96.9 mm compared to the average of 51.3 mm. With two wet months so far this year, the total precipitation for the year at 187.2 mm is well above the average of 114.1 mm.

Environment Canada prediction of temperature for the month: Below Average  
Actual Temperature: Average

Summary for February 2006:

Maximum Temperature  $7.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

Minimum Temperature  $-19.7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

Average Daily High Temperature  $-1.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Long term average  $-1.9\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

Average Daily Low Temperature  $-9.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Long term average  $-10.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

Total Precipitation 96.9 mm (Long term average 51.3 mm)

(Long term averages based on 1970-2000 data for the Waterloo Wellington Airport)