

University of Waterloo Weather Station Summary - Spring 2007

A warmer than average spring with (just barely) average precipitation

I keep getting the question: Did we really have a spring this year? After a very cold April and summer like temperatures at the end of May it is a valid question. Looking at the temperature graph we only saw “spring like” conditions between mid-April and late May, so it looks like true spring weather only lasted about 5 weeks this year. Of course, it can also be argued that a spring is by definition the mixing of both winter and summer weather and thus what we saw was still typical. I don't really know the answer.

Although it was briefly warm at the end of March, the 2 weeks of colder than average temperatures to start April put any hopes of an early spring to rest. We broke that streak on April 19th and then had the temperatures and rainfall you would expect in a typical spring for a little while. But then on May 23rd, it got to 28.4 °C and apart from a few days here and there it has been “summer like” since then.

Those late May warm temperature offset the cold April to make the spring 0.8 degrees warmer than average overall.

We only had 168.4 mm of precipitation during the spring, compared to the average of 219.5 mm. The 6.8 mm we got on the second last day of the season put us just barely into the range for average precipitation.

There was only about 40 mm in the last 35 days of the season, meaning the summer is starting out with the ground very dry as evidenced by the brown colour of most of the lawns in the area. The 33.4 mm we had on May 15th (remember the evening with the big wind storm and really intense rainfall) was by far the rainiest day of the spring.

Summary for Spring 2007:

Maximum Temperature 31.1 °C

Minimum Temperature -8.7 °C

Average Daily High Temperature 16.7 °C (Long term average 15.9 °C)

Average Daily Low Temperature 5.2 °C (Long term average 4.4 °C)

Total Precipitation 168.4 mm (Long term average 219.5 mm)

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

The University of Waterloo weather station is supported by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the Department of Geography, the Climate Research Branch of Environment Canada, Campbell Scientific Canada, and the Waterloo Engineering Endowment Fund.